2 Marine whistle-blowers facing mutiny inquiry

Story below, Col. 3

HK won't soothe ghosts

NAKU...BAKA UMABOT DITO ANG MGA GHOSTS NA YAN???

HONG KONG—The gates of hell are now open, and according to Chinese tradition it's time to burn incense and offerings in the streets for roaming ghosts as they search for food, clothes, money and even fake teeth.

HK WON'T/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

3 women of Edsa I, II, III meet in hotel in Manila

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT WAS a rare moment at the Manila Hotel Monday night: the three women of Edsa I, II and III together in one occasion.

But contrary to high anticipation, President Macapagal-Arroyo and the wife of her ousted predecessor, Sen.

3 WOMEN/ A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, August 13, 2003 ★★ 56 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 246 P15

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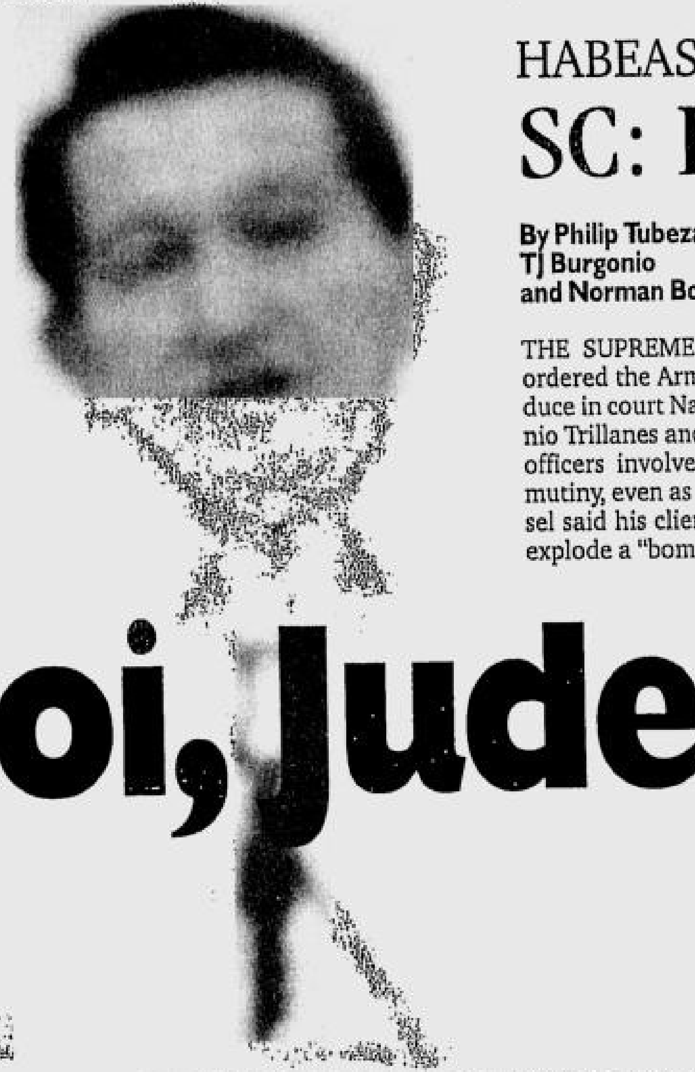


HABEAS CORPUS

SC: Produce mutiny leaders

By Philip Tubeza
TJ Burgonio
and Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered the Armed Forces to produce in court Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes and five other junior officers involved in the July 27 mutiny, even as the officers' counsel said his clients were all set to explode a "bombshell" when they testify before the Senate tomorrow.

In Camp Aguinaldo, the military further tightened security in preparation for today's second hearing by the Feliciano Commission where the mutineers of the Magdalo group led by Trillanes are scheduled to appear.

Officials also admitted that two officers who joined the mutiny—Captains Peter Paul Iringan and John Andres—remain at large.

In its en banc decision, the SC ordered the government to present the officers before the Court of Appeals at 10 a.m. on Aug. 18, the same day the Department of Justice will start the preliminary investigation on the coup d'etat charges filed against Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

SC/ A18

ERIK ARAZAS

FLORENTINO FELICIANO, chair of the independent fact-finding commission.

Loi, Jude linked to coup

The group that wanted to rule the count

FIRST witness for the government before the first hearing of the Feliciano Commission in Camp Aguinaldo, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. ERIK ARAZAS

2 vans traced to senator; JV cries witch-hunt

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MILITARY yesterday linked Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada to the July 27 mutiny, after the new chief of military intelligence claimed that two vans abandoned by mutineers were traced to her through a subdivision sticker issued in her name.

At the first hearing of the Feliciano Commission, Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said that the military discovered three abandoned vans near the Philippine Navy armory in Sangley Point, Cavite, on the eve of the mutiny, on July 26.

Cabuay said that it was later found out that two of the vans, a Kia Besta and a Mitsubishi L-300, had North Greenhills subdivision decals issued in the name of Senator Estrada.

Cabuay also said that in one of the vans, they found an envelope containing documents bearing the name of reserve Air Force Capt. Jude Estrada.

Cabuay said two of the three vehicles recovered near Camp San Felipe were registered in the name of JELP Corp. whose address is listed as 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan—the home of the Estradas.

Senator Estrada immediately denied the allegations, saying that she and her son had nothing to do with the coup attempt.

"We have nothing to do with any coup. Jude is not even going out of the house anymore," the senator, the wife of deposed President Joseph Estrada, told reporters.

She said the government was engaged in a "witch-hunt," and the authorities were trying to link her husband to the coup attempt.

Lawyer Crispin Remulla, the ex-President's

LOI/ A20

MOTHER and son: Senator Loi and Jinggoy Estrada; brother Jude is also implicated because of an envelope found in the van. PDI PHOTO

Erap on Jerika's school in UK: We can afford it

JOAN BONDOC

ERAP on daughter Jerika: Have pity on her. Leave her alone.

By Armand Nocum

"*HINDI ko ba kaya 'yon?* (Can I not afford it?)"

This was ousted President Joseph Estrada's retort to nasty talks about his 18-year-old daughter Jerika Larize's studying in an expensive school in England.

In a telephone interview, Estrada said he had savings and Laarni Enriquez, Jerika's mother, had her own businesses. He said Enriquez owned the Japanese fast food restaurant Arigato Express, Bingo outlets and a commercial building.

Estrada said Jerika was studying at the Cobham Hall in the county of Kent, 40 km from London.

She was set to return there on Aug. 25

ERAP/ A18

GMA forms 2 task forces to probe corruption in AFP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AS PART of "deep reforms" in the Armed Forces, President Macapagal-Arroyo formed yesterday two anticorruption task forces, one of which would conduct a lifestyle check on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other defense and military officers. *(Story below.)*

The President announced the reforms on the eve of the testimony before the Feliciano Commission of the leaders of the July 27 mutiny, who used corruption in the Armed Forces such as the alleged sale by the defense and military leadership of arms and ammunition to rebels and the allocation of posh housing units to favored generals, in seeking public support for the mutiny.

On Monday, Ms Macapagal lifted the "state of rebellion" she declared on July 27 to quell the Makati mutiny, saying that the threat had abated even as several conspirators remained at large.

Immediately after announcing the creation

GMA FORMS/ A6

Reyes: I might be hit by lightning

By Christian V. Esguerra
and TJ Burgonio

SIX seconds.

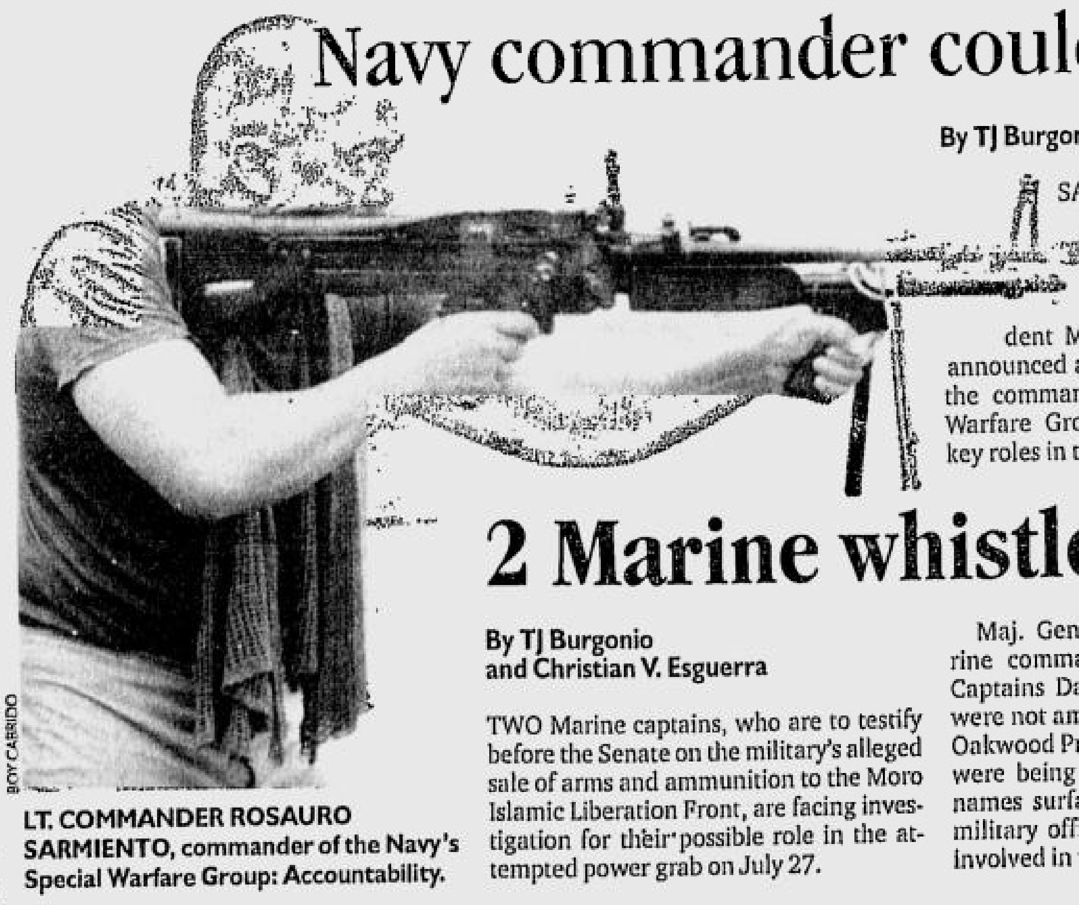
It took Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes that long to think when he was asked if he could honestly say, with God as witness, that he had never been into any form of corruption.

"It's hard to say that I had not received a single centavo ... I might be hit by lightning," Reyes said in Filipino yesterday morning in response to the question of dzBB anchorman Rene Sta. Cruz.

The question was meant to end an emotionally charged interview that touched largely on the secretary's supposed unexplained wealth.

Reyes was candid when asked to ex-

REYES/ A6



BOY CABRIDO

LT. COMMANDER ROSAURO SARMIENTO, commander of the Navy's Special Warfare Group: Accountability.

Navy commander couldn't rein in men, quits

By TJ Burgonio

SAYING that the resignation of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as military intelligence chief "was not the only fallout of the coup," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced another resignation: That of the commander of the Navy's Special Warfare Group, whose officers played key roles in the July 27 mutiny.

He "has resigned his command because he had committed to me the day before the coup that if even one of his men would join it, he would resign," Ms Macapagal said at the 40th anniversary of the National Defense College.

She was referring to Lt. Commander Rosauro Sarmiento, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1987.

A military official familiar with the

NAVY/ A20

2 Marine whistle-blowers face probe

By TJ Burgonio
and Christian V. Esguerra

TWO Marine captains, who are to testify before the Senate on the military's alleged sale of arms and ammunition to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, are facing investigation for their possible role in the attempted power grab on July 27.

Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Marine commandant, told reporters that Captains Danilo Luna and Ury Pesigan were not among the rebel soldiers at the Oakwood Premier building in Makati but were being investigated because "their names surfaced" in the "master list" of military officers and enlisted personnel involved in the uprising.

"They are being investigated to establish how involved they are with the [Magdalo] group," Teodosio said, adding that the two officers were "restricted to camp" at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had earlier ordered the issuance of subpoe-

2 MARINE A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/13/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Palace official says mutineers sought US help

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

A RANKING Malacañang official yesterday said that leaders of the July 27 failed mutiny made frantic calls to the US Embassy at the height of their rebellion to seek support for the planned takeover of the government by a 15-man military junta.

The Palace official, who declined to be named, said Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, Capt. Milo Maestrecampo and other leaders of the Oakwood mutiny called up military attachés in the US Embassy and US military officers who trained them during the Balikatan exercises asking support for the mutiny.

But this was quickly denied by the spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, saying no calls were received by any US Embassy personnel from any leader of the mutiny on July 27.

"No such call was made," US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley told the INQUIRER yesterday after she was asked if Trillanes indeed phoned American officers in the embassy on July 27 seeking support for the planned military junta.

"They were able to trace the (whereabouts of) US military officers who trained them during the Balikatan and asked for their support in convincing the US government to back the mutiny," the Malacañang official said.

The Palace official said Trillanes et al made the calls at around 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 27, "when it was apparent that they were not getting support from the people."

Later that afternoon, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone came out on television declaring that the US government was standing squarely behind President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Malacañang official recalled that during the mutiny, the Macapagal administration just made the 'normal' communication to the US and other foreign embassies to inform them of the developments and assure them that the government remained in control of the situation.

"It was very clear, even at that point, that the military command was intact," the Palace official said.

Reyes vows probe of arms sale to rebs

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said the Philippine army will investigate allegations that soldiers sold weapons to Muslim rebels, and vowed to quit if it was proved he was ultimately responsible as a commander.

Marine Capt. Danilo Luna, who is not among 321 soldiers facing coup charges over a mutiny on July 27, said in an affidavit he saw guns and ammunition handed over to a town mayor and former Muslim rebel on the southern island of Jolo in late 1997.

Luna said he had come forward to inform President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Filipino people that military supplies were "being sold and delivered to enemies of the state."

In his affidavit, Luna said he was commanding a Marine company when the incident happened. He said he reported it to Marine intelligence officers but that nothing came out of it.

Allegations of corruption

Analysts of the mutineers' allegations of corruption in the military noted that low-paid soldiers were the ones selling a few guns or bullets to rebels for some extra cash, while the real money was in the procurement process.

The disgruntled junior officers also accused senior officials of pinning the blame for staged bombings on Muslim rebels to bag more military aid from Washington. They demanded the resignations of Reyes and the military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus.

Reyes protested that he was nowhere near Jolo in late 1997, as he was commanding an infantry division in northern Luzon at the time. Corpus quit just after the mutiny but the government said his departure was not related to the soldiers' demands.

In a statement, Reyes said Luna's affidavit contained "serious accusations that should be looked into." He told local television in a phone interview: "If I'm responsible, I will resign."

Reyes faces a probe by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission over a P10-million house he had built on a cabinet-level salary of no more than P45,000 a month.

'Long-needed reforms'

The President announced yesterday she has created two task forces to "institute long-needed reforms" at the Department of National Defense, particularly in equipment procurement.

She called on "junior officers with knowledge of corruption" in the force to bring their evidence before the Department of Justice, and vowed that all of the mutineers' accusations would be "investigated expeditiously and thoroughly."

A second Marine captain is set to testify in the Senate coup inquiry about P67 million allotted for road and development projects inside the Philippine Marine base in Ternate, Cavite in 1996.

In an affidavit, Capt. Yuri Pesigan said the projects remained "unfinished ... and the P67 million was totally depleted but never accounted for."

At the time, Pesigan said, he was assigned to the Plans and Programs section of the Philippine Marine Corps as base development officer.

Two separate anomalies

Luna and Pesigan's lawyers stressed in a news conference yesterday that their clients were presenting "two separate anomalies," corroborating the mutineers' accusations. Like Luna, Pesigan was not a participant in the failed uprising.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the two officers would testify after Aug.14, when the testimony of the mutiny leaders were scheduled to be heard.

Drilon said he would ask the Department of Justice to place the two under the Witness Protection Progam, as requested by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

But one of the lawyers, Gideon Mortel, said their clients would rather be placed in the custody of the Senate, or guarded by fellow Marines.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has unanimously approved a bill imposing the death penalty for the sale of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other weapons to enemies of the state and terrorists.

This was announced yesterday by Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, principal author of House Bill 5888, which classifies the violations as heinous crimes.

Biazon's father Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has authored a counterpart bill in the Senate. *Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo, with a report from Reuters*

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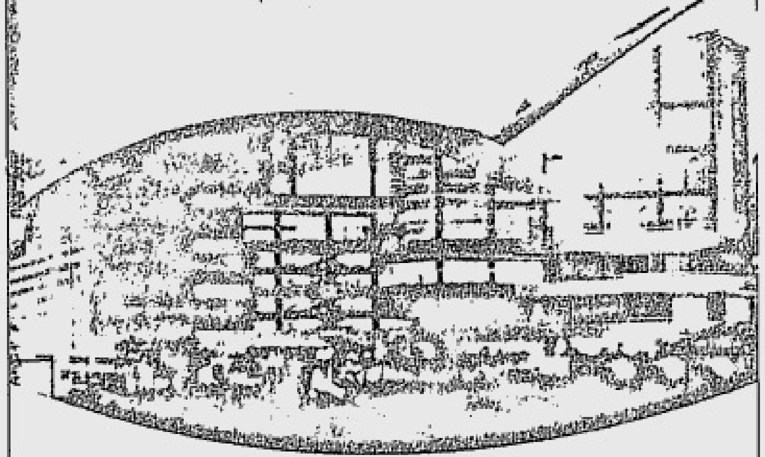

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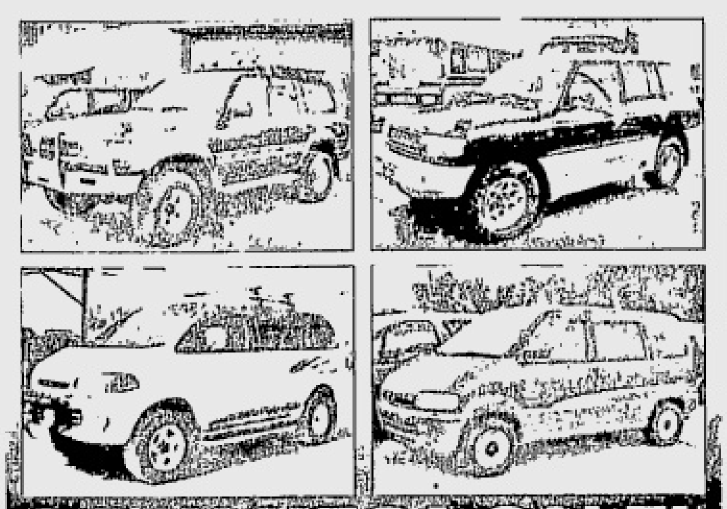

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Ninoy slay brains off the hook by Aug. 21

COME Aug. 21, the 1983 Aquino-Galman murder case would have prescribed despite lingering perceptions that the "mastermind" has eluded prosecution and that the 16 military men who were meted life sentences for the crime merely acted as pawns in a grand plot.

With the expiration, other persons who should have been charged in the twin slaying of opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and his purported assailant, Rolando Galman, may no longer be haled to court.

But according to a human rights lawyer, the 20-year prescriptive period which applies to the historic murder case can go beyond Aug. 21, 2003 if the person or persons who are still to be charged spent time outside the country after the crime was committed.

Citing the Revised Penal Code, Arno Sanidad of the Free Legal Assistance Group explained: "If after the crime that person spent, say, three years outside the country's jurisdiction, the prescriptive period (as applied to him) is interrupted. It commences to run again when he returns."

The prescriptive period can therefore be extended according to the length of time the person ought to be charged was out of the country, Sanidad said in an interview.

This means the government can still pursue cases against such persons if evidence has cropped up against them, the FLAG lawyer added.

Sanidad, however, doubted whether the ex-soldiers who were convicted for the Aquino-Galman murder in 1990 could still be swayed into breaking their silence and provide new leads.

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Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 21.00	63.50	42.50/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.75	2.35	1.60/tab
Antiobiotic (Kontra-Bakterya)			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 3.10	8.95	5.85/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.50	11.80/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓ 37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 26.70	71.75	45.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓ 2.40	12.30	9.90/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot

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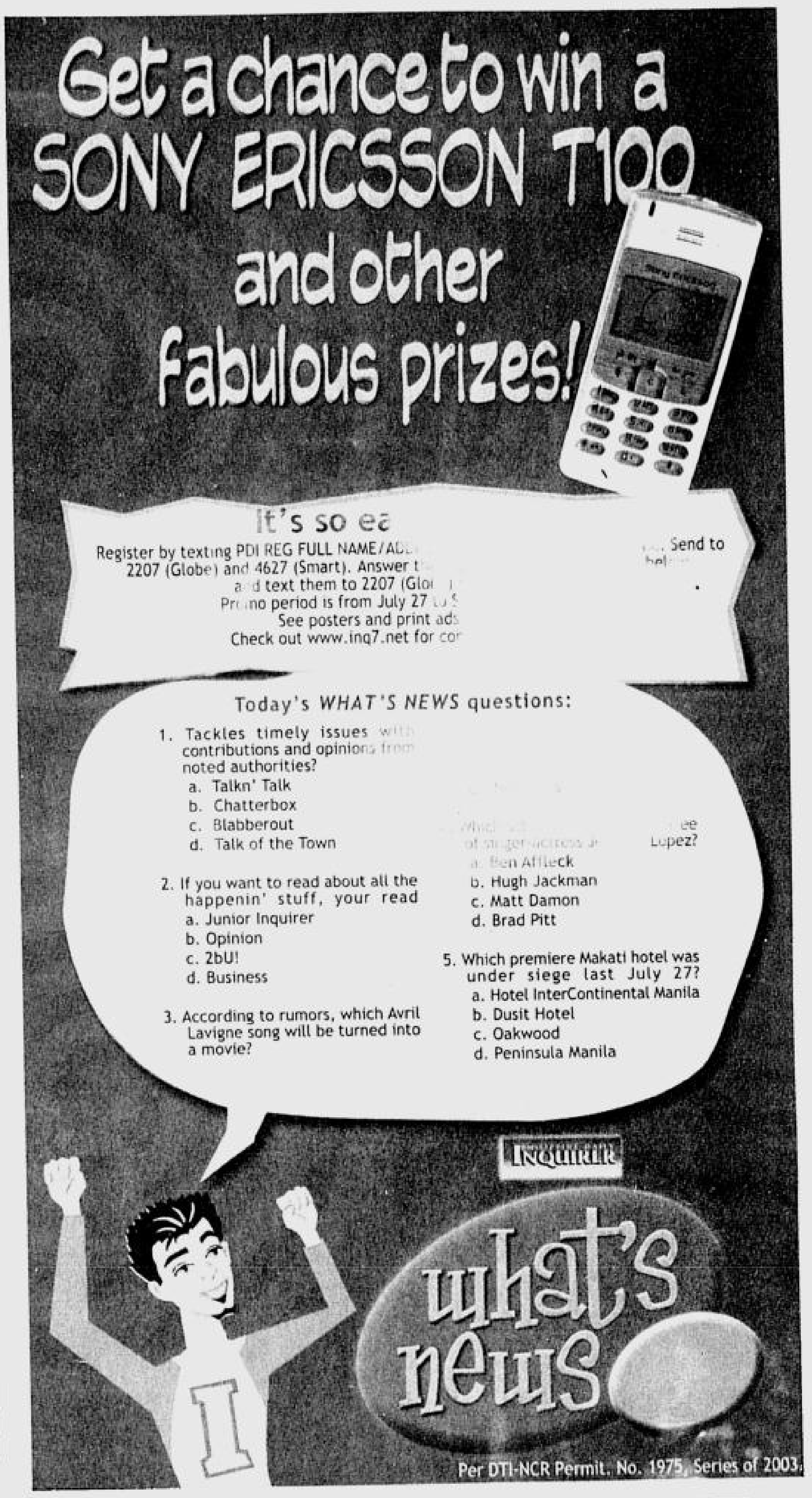
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   a. Talkn' Talk
   b. Chatterbox
   c. Blabberout
   d. Talk of the Town
2. If you want to read about all the happenin' stuff, your read
   a. Junior Inquirer
   b. Opinion
   c. 2bU!
   d. Business
3. According to rumors, which Avril Lavigne song will be turned into a movie?
4. Which [illegible] of singer-actress J[illegible] Lopez?
   a. Ben Affleck
   b. Hugh Jackman
   c. Matt Damon
   d. Brad Pitt
5. Which premiere Makati hotel was under siege last July 27?
   a. Hotel InterContinental Manila
   b. Dusit Hotel
   c. Oakwood
   d. Peninsula Manila

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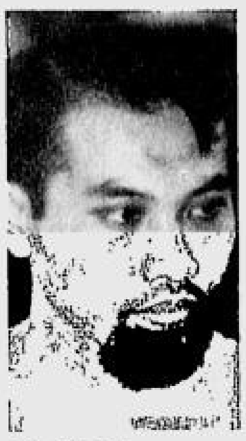
GMA presses MILF to help get Al-Ghozi



AL-GHOZI

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Christian V. Esguerra

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has called on the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to make good on its promise to help in the hunt for fugitive bombmaker Fathur Roman al-Ghozi who is believed to be hiding out in an MILF-controlled area in Mindanao.

"We look forward to the cooperation of the MILF under its commitments to the peace process. Forces within the purview of the peace talks must stand aside and allow legitimate law enforcement and pursuit operations to proceed unhampered," the President said in a statement.

The President said the government was engaged in "highly focused operations" targeted at recapturing Al-Ghozi whom she said has "gone to roost with foreign terrorist cells training in Mindanao that must be neutralized at all costs."

She said there were no plans to widen the area of engagement beyond what was needed.

The MILF has warned that the pursuit of Al-Ghozi in their territory could affect the peace talks that are scheduled to start next month in Kuala Lumpur.

A ranking Army officer yesterday said Al-Ghozi was being protected by fellow Indonesians in the Lanao area.

The source, who is part of the Army battalion hunting down Al-Ghozi, said the Indonesian outlaws who now make up half of the people living in the area had slipped into the country through the southern back door.

They are themselves being hunted by Indonesian authorities for a string of criminal cases, including terrorist activities, the source said.

"These people are no ordinary criminals," the source said.

The area supposedly housing the Indonesian fugitives is said to be located near an MILF camp, thus complicating military efforts to get at Al-Ghozi, the official said.

Malacañang and military officials have claimed that Al-Ghozi was being aided by heavily armed escorts that helped the Indonesian fugitive to slip through a military dragnet in Lanao del Norte into Maguindanao.

It could not be determined whether Al-Ghozi's escorts were MILF rebels.

"We don't want to point fingers at any particular group holding Al-Ghozi. The President just issued a stern warning that those coddling Al-Ghozi would face the direct consequences," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told a press briefing.

Bunye said both the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police were exerting their best efforts in the hunt for Al-Ghozi.

Even the United States with its massive operations and sophisticated equipment have not found Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein or international terrorist Osama bin Laden, said Bunye.

"You can't win them all; we believe that the AFP and PNP were exerting their best efforts," Bunye said.

P7.8-B Navy budget faces rough sailing

By Carlito Pablo

THE PROPOSED P7.8 billion budget for the Navy next year faces rough sailing before the House, no thanks to the so-called "Trillanes papers" on alleged graft and corruption in this branch of the Armed Forces.

According to opposition Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan), the Navy brass will be grilled during the budget hearings next month over two studies that Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV prepared while pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines. Trillanes was the spokesperson of the Magdalo soldiers who staged the failed Makati mutiny last July 27.

In October 2001, Trillanes, a lieutenant junior grade at the time, wrote "A Study of Corruption in the Philippine Navy." Five months later he submitted a follow-up research, "Corruption in the Philippine Navy Procurement Process."

Mitra said the research papers were a "treasure trove" of accounts on how precious Navy funds were being sapped through illegal activities. Because the papers earned high grades from the author's professors at the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, the solon added, Trillanes should not be ignored despite his status as an officer accused of mutiny.

The papers cite specific cases of pilferage and sale of fuel, which have rendered Navy patrol boats immobile in many instances. Also discussed are ghost deliveries, conversion of procured goods to cash, ghost employees in the payroll, and regular use of substandard materials for boat repairs.

In a separate statement, Rep. Gerardo Espina Sr. said he recently filed a resolution calling for the investigation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Retirement and Separation Benefits System.

Marines in Metro?

THE GOVERNMENT may deploy Marines in key urban centers to protect vital installations from possible terrorist attacks in the wake of last week's hotel bombing in Jakarta.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the public that the Marines would be deployed only as a last resort.

Ms Macapagal said she was open to the idea of tapping the Marines if needed. "We have done this in the past and it contributed much to the sense of security of our people."

The government has raised its alert level following the bombing of the JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta by Islamic militants which left 11 people dead.

Security at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport has also been tightened in the wake of the Jakarta bombing. Top NAIA officials met the other day to remedy the "security gaps and weak points" in the country's premier airport found by US air transportation experts.

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda told the INQUIRER they have adopted security measures recommended by the US team, including the removal of *ipil-ipil* groves and tall grasses near Runway 06. *Jerome Aning*

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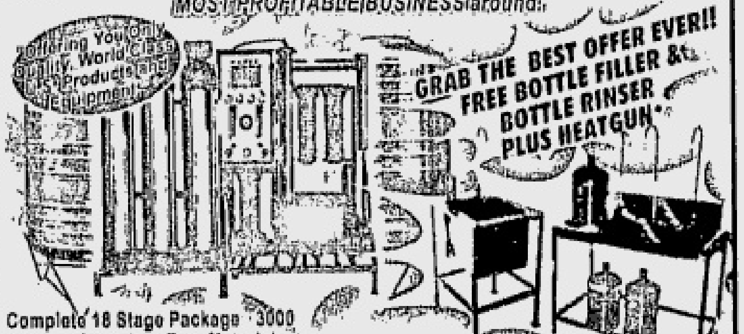

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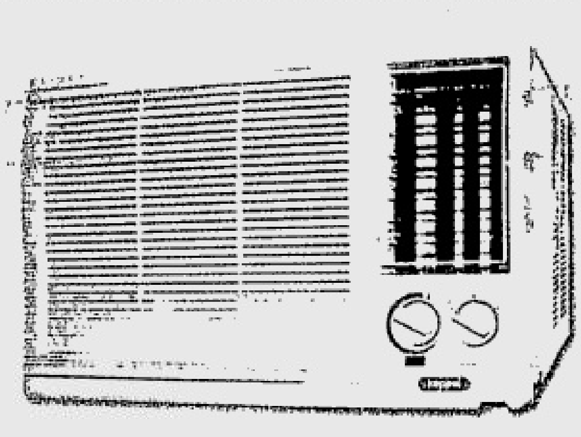

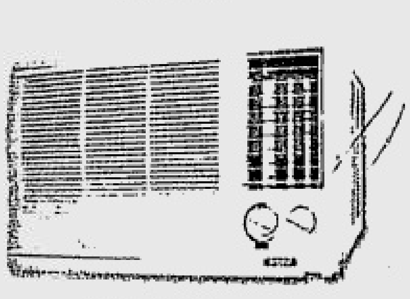

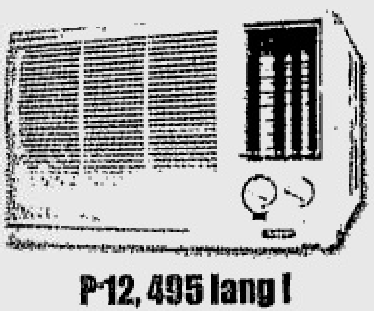

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OWWA lost P40M in Medicare fraud

By Martin Marfil

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) believes that it lost over P40 million within one month due to fraudulent Medicare claims.

The claims were allegedly made by members of a syndicate composed of former and current Owwa employees between June 26 and July 26.

During that same period, officials said that Owwa paid out about P40 million in claims although its Medicare collections amounted to only P41 million.

"My initial findings indicate that most of these claims, which as of today I have not fully quantified...are grossly overstated. The fact that the claims defy historical trend and statistical improbability indicates a possibility of fraud," Owwa administrator Virgilio Angelo said in a press statement.

All Overseas Filipino Workers are required to pay $25 per contract for membership to the Owwa Medicare health insurance program.

Once a member, an OFW and his or her family can avail of Medicare benefits which include hospitalization, operations and "catastrophic" diseases.

Data showed that the average Medicare claims amounted to about seven to 15 percent of monthly contributions.

The Owwa Medicare fund is about P2.8 billion.

Labor officials were tipped off about the alleged anomalies by an unidentified phone caller.

Alerted, Owwa officials pulled out two "samples" and discovered that both were spurious claims.

Labor officials have contacted the police which have initiated an investigation into the anomaly.

"I wish to assure the public, particularly our OFWs and their families that during the investigation, there will be no disruption in the delivery of basic Owwa services," Angelo said.

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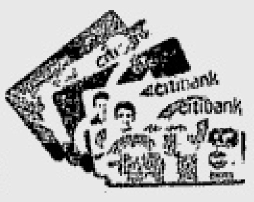

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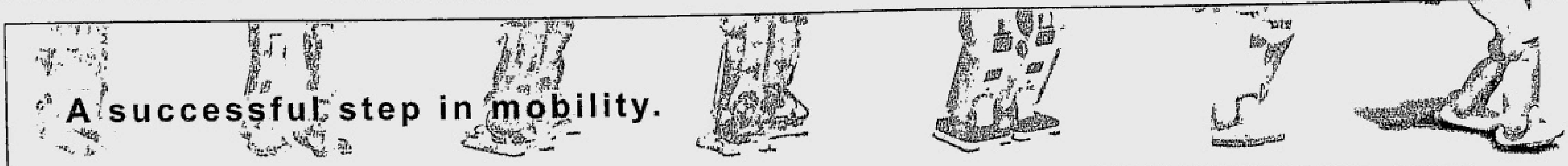

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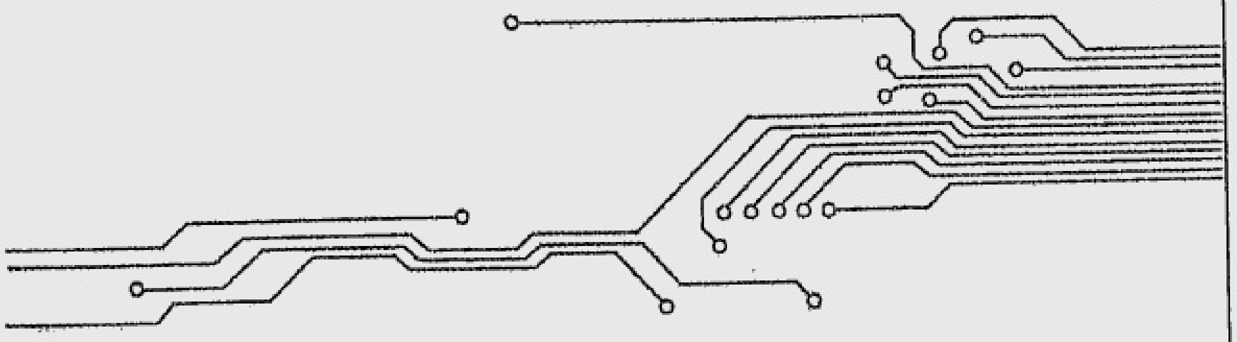

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

GMA forms 2 task forces to probe corruption in AFP

From page A1

of the task forces, Ms Macapagal commended Reyes "for being the first to set the example in submitting himself to the investigation of this task force."

Reyes is already being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for his reported P10-million house currently under construction in Fort Bonifacio.

The second task force will reform the procurement system of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. She clipped the power of AFP comptrollers to disburse funds.

"We have seen a misadventure in counter-reform. We shall answer it with more reform," the President said in a speech on the 40th anniversary of the National Defense College.

In her State of the Nation Address on July 28, Ms Macapagal said she would create two commissions to investigate the roots of the mutiny and the Davao City bombings in April that left 32 people dead. She has not formed the Davao commission up to now because, according to her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, she is still "scouting" around for suitable members.

The Magdalo group led by Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV also charged that Reyes and resigned military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus were behind the bombings in Davao, charges that the two men strongly denied.

For the first time since their mutiny fizzled out, Trillanes and company are scheduled to appear today in a public hearing of the Feliciano Commission in Camp Aguinaldo. They will appear before the Senate tomorrow.

"All allegations of corruption in the Armed Forces shall be investigated expeditiously and thoroughly," Ms Macapagal said.

She asked any junior officer with knowledge of corruption in the military to present evidence before the Department of Justice.

"You shall be protected in your fight for the truth. There will be no whitewash or looking the other way," Ms Macapagal said.

"If there is evidence, there will be prosecution. If guilt is proven, people will go to jail, whatever the rank or command," she said.

Fraction of true budget

The President said a common grievance of junior officers was the conversion and retention of funds at headquarters or senior military level "so what trickles down to the juniors at field level where the actual combat takes place is a fraction of the true budget."

This gives rise to corruption at the headquarters or senior level, according to the President.

"The heart of this structural problem is the power that AFP comptrollers have accumulated over the years, such that comptrollers themselves disburse converted cash to field officers," Ms Macapagal said.

She announced that from now on, the AFP chief of staff would have the sole authority to disburse cash reserves. She also directed the chief of staff to computerize the financial records of the AFP.

"These are quick remedial measures. But I am calling for deep reforms in the AFP, and for an anticorruption drive in the organization," she said.

She said she would create two task forces under the Department of National Defense and to be funded by the Office of the President.

Procurement office

The first task force, to be headed by Defense Undersecretary Konstancia de Guzman, will study and reform the AFP procurement process and fund disbursement system.

The President said the De Guzman task force should hire consultants or members "like Vic Limlingan of the Asian Institute of Management and personalities known for their integrity like Renato de Villa."

But Bunye said Limlingan and De Villa, a presidential adviser for strategic concerns, would "not necessarily" be appointed to the task force.

Ms Macapagal said the task force should also get representatives from the Commission on Audit and the Department of Budget Management, who are "familiar on how corruption works" in government.

She gave the task force one month to submit its recommendations and another month to execute the reforms.

The President said the task force would then be institutionalized through a presidential order as a permanent office in the DND to oversee the AFP procurement and disbursement system.

The second task force, she said, would be an anticorruption unit that would work with the PAGC in investigating complaints of corruption leveled at defense and military officials or personnel.

"This task force would undertake comprehensive lifestyle checks, in the manner we've been doing for customs, BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways)," she said, citing Reyes as the first in line.

Evict officers

"One work of this task force obviously would be to make firm recommendations for evicting officers occupying AFP residences past the regulations," she said.

The President said the task force, whose head she did not name, would be institutionalized as an internal affairs-type of office in the DND.

Ms Macapagal said a similar "cleaning up" would be undertaken in the Philippine National Police as she had announced in her Sona a day after the failed mutiny.

"This shall be done under the PNP Reform Commission which will be the new nature of the Independent Al-Ghozi fact-finding committee after it submits its findings to me on the 15th of this month," she said.

She was referring to the commission headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez tasked with investigating the July 14 escape of convicted Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

En Banc

IN RE: PETITION TO ANNUL THE BOOK OF VOTERS OF LAPU-LAPU CITY

SPP NO. 03-048

COMELEC Lapu-Lapu City, represented by **PATRICIA L. SITOY,** *Acting Election Officer, Petitioner.*

Promulgated:
August 7, 2003

X- -X
JAVIER, RUFINO S.B., Commissioner

RESOLUTION

Before Us is a Petition to Annul the Book of Voters of Lapu-Lapu City filed by Patricia A. Sitoy, Acting Election Officer of Lapu-Lapu City.

She principally alleged as follows:

> *Xxx xxxx*
>
> *"3. That upon my assumption of the said office, I discovered massive number of blank Voter's Registration Records (VRR) assigned to voters who applied for transfer from another City or Municipality which were not confirmed in their original station but whose applications were approved by the Election Registration Board (ERB). The latter's action on said VRR's is not in accordance with the law and is therefore, a violation under SECTION 1, RULE 31 of the COMELEC Rules on Procedure;*
>
> *4. That based on the Computerized Voter's List (CVL) and manual inspections of the Book of Voters, petitioner found other irregularities such as duplicated serial numbers of VRR's and double registrants which is a violation under SECTION 261, LETTER Y, PAR. 5 of the Omnibus Election Code;*
>
> *5. That continued using of the existing List of Voters will only aggravate the perennial election problems in Lapu-Lapu City. The annulment of the existing Book of Voters is the only alternative to solve this election problems and ensure for a clean, honest and orderly election that will regain the voters full faith and confidence in our electoral processes'."*

On April 29, 2003, this Commission issued an Order[2] (1) setting the case for hearing in June 3, 2003 and (2) directing the Regional Election Director (RED) for Region VII concerned to publish the Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the province or municipality concerned once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, and to post the Order and Notice of Hearing in conspicuous public places and to disseminate the same in the province or municipality concerned, among others.

On May 21,2003, Atty. Salud Aliganga, Acting RED-Region VII manifested to this Commission her compliance with the April 29, 2003 Order. After the hearing last June 3, 2003, the case was deemed submitted for resolution.

We find merit in the contention of the petitioner. Indeed, her claim that "massive number of blank Voter's Registration Records (VRR) assigned to voters who applied for transfer from another city or municipality which were not confirmed in their original station but whose applications were approved by the Election Registration Board (ERB)" and that other irregularities such as "duplicated serial numbers of VRR's (sic) and double registrants" shows that the book of voters in Lapu-Lapu City does not any more conform with the provisions of law particularly of RA 8189. Thus, pursuant to Sec. 39 of said law which provides that:

> *Sec. 39* **Annulment of Book of Voters-** The Commission shall, upon verified petition of any voter or election officer or duly registered political party, and after notice and hearing, annul any book of voters that is not prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Act or was prepared through fraud, bribery, forgery, impersonation, intimidation, force or any irregularity or which contains data that are statistically improbable. xxx

We have to annul the book of voters of Lapu-Lapu City.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission (En Banc) hereby **GRANTS** the Petition to Annul the Book of Voters in Lapu-Lapu City.

The Commission shall, in a separate resolution, issue the guidelines and schedule for the preparation of a new book of voters in Lapu-Lapu City.

Let the Education and Information Department of this Commission cause the dissemination of this resolution and its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

This resolution shall be immediately executory.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the conclusions in the foregoing resolution were reached in consultation among the members of the Commission before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Commission *En Banc.*

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

Reyes: I might be hit by lightning

From page A1

REYES

plain how he acquired his so-called "mansion" in Fort Bonifacio. The mansion is under construction at the AFP Officers Village Association Inc. and is said to be worth P10 million.

The defense secretary said the construction was financed by a loan he borrowed from PSBank with his wife and children as co-signatories.

Reyes said he used part of the loan to buy a lot adjacent to the property.

"I can live with my conscience," he said. "I can defend (the acquisition of the property)."

Reyes said there should have been not much fuss over the property, noting that it was located in a military housing area and not in posh subdivisions such as Forbes Park, Corinthian Gardens or Dasmariñas Village.

He said he was open to the inquiry into his lifestyle by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

"I will face the PAGC. I have no problem with that," Reyes said.

A task force that President Macapagal-Aroyo formed yesterday as part of "deep reforms" in the Armed Forces will also look into the lifestyle of Reyes and other defense and military officials. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Garcia's apartment

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, welcomed the lifestyle check on government officials ordered by the President, noting that military officers should be transparent about their lifestyles.

"A lifestyle, as mandated, I think is necessary and the lifestyles of the officers should be an open book to everyone. It should not be hidden; it is there to be seen," he told reporters.

Garcia, who claims he lives in an apartment, said he would welcome anybody to conduct a background check on him.

"I'm not worried; I don't know if others are. But we should be transparent," he said.

One of those worried is Nestorio Gualberto, former chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police.

Gualberto cried foul over the suggestion that he be the first to be investigated owing to his investment in a "pyramid scam."

Gualberto investment

There was nothing irregular, he said, with his P3-million investment, which he nearly lost to Exsior Enterprises in 2000.

He said he borrowed the money from a friend he had known for 12 years. "There's nothing irregular in that."

The priority of the lifestyle check, he told the INQUIRER yesterday, should be the generals who allegedly own houses in exclusive villages like Forbes Park and Corinthian Gardens.

"I have been living in Soldier's Hills, a low-cost housing project in Muntinlupa, for the last 25 years," Gualberto said.

Reyes went to the PAGC yesterday to submit a document about his controversial real estate property in Fort Bonifacio.

He presented a two-page affidavit detailing how he obtained a P10-million loan from the PS Bank on Aug. 6 last year for the acquisition of two lots in a housing area in Fort Bonifacio and for the construction of a house.

The defense secretary submitted the affidavit to the office of Commissioner Teresita Baltazar because PAGC Chair Dario Rama was out of town.

"I came over here myself... to set an example in submitting to the investigative powers of this body," Reyes said in a statement.

Baltazar called Reyes a true gentleman and asked other presidential appointees to follow suit.

"*Kahanga-hanga*. I admire him (Reyes) for complying at once and setting a good example to others," she said in a statement release by the defense department

Two lots

In his affidavit, Reyes said that he and his wife, Teresita, obtained a P10-million loan from the PSBank in August 2002 to pay partly for the purchase of another 400-square meter lot at the AFP Officers' Village Association Inc. housing project in Taguig and the construction of a house.

Reyes said that he bought a 400-square meter lot at the AFPOVAI project in 1980 and paid some P15,000. The lot's current market value is P5 million.

And late last year, he and his wife bought an adjoining 400-square meter lot with a fair market value of P4 million.

For this lot, Reyes made a down payment of P1.67 million from his personal savings and from his sons, and took P2.3 million from the P10-million loan to pay for the balance.

Both lots are reflected in his 2002 statement of assets and liabilities, according to Reyes.

Promissory notes

The second tranche of the loan, P2.2 million, and the third tranche, P2.2 million, released in May and June respectively this year, were used for the construction of the house. The releases were covered by promissory notes he, his wife and four unmarried sons executed, according to Reyes.

The first release of the loan was payable within eight years, while the second and third releases were payable within seven and a half years.

"All in all, as of this time, I have availed (myself) of the amount of P6.8 million from my P10-million loan, giving me an available balance of P3.2 million," Reyes said in his affidavit.

He said he decided to "build my residence" last year because he and his family had nowhere else to go once he leaves his post, and gives up his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

ERRATUM

In the Institute of Corporate Directors Course Offerings for August 2003 advertisement that appeared in the Inquirer's August 11 issue on page A6, the venue for the Audit Reforms & Audit Committees should have been the "Manila A Room, Makati Shangri-La". For reservations and enrolment, call Mr. Adrian Yao, Ms Marie Yap-Recomono, or Ms Charo Facundo at 884-1493, 884-1494, or 884-1498.

DPWH chief sues tabloid for libel

ACTING Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez is set to file a libel case today against Joey Galicia Venancio, a columnist of the tabloid "Bomba."

Soriquez said he would ask Manila City Prosecutor Ramon Garcia to put Venancio on trial for a criminal offense due to a column item that "libeled me in the most despicable manner."

In the column published on Aug. 7, Venancio alleged that Soriquez demanded P50 million from a person in exchange for a road contract in Mindoro.

Soriquez, who was appointed on April 28 by President Macapagal-Arroyo, is being represented by lawyer Bonifacio Mendoza Sison.

Venancio said he got the information from an engineer, unnamed in his column, who sent the "expose" via a text message.

"At first, I just wanted to dismiss the accusation," said Soriquez. "But my family and many of my associates felt it was too much. It is a barefaced lie and a defamation of my person."

He noted that Venancio's name is the only one appearing in the masthead of the tabloid, whose listed address is Port Area, Manila.

If found guilty, Venancio faces a jail term of from six months and one day to six years and one day.

Israel to oust RP 'illegals'

THE PHILIPPINE government fears the possibility of mass arrest and deportation of overseas Filipino workers in Israel.

This cropped up after Israeli authorities informed Filipino officials that there was an ongoing campaign to arrest and deport illegal foreign workers.

There are about 50,000 Filipino workers in Israel, 20,000 of whom are believe to be illegals.

To stall the deportation, the Philippine ambassador to Israel asked her counterparts to "go slow" on its ongoing deportation drive.

Filipino labor attache Jalilo de la Torre said in a report that Israeli authorities are giving illegal foreign workers with families a chance to voluntarily register themselves with the police and immigration authorities.

However, those who register will have to present one-way tickets to Manila from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30 this year.

"Those who will register will not be arrested but will be allowed to leave on their own volition within a reasonable period of time after registering," Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said in a press statement.

For those who want to work in Israel, Sto. Tomas said that they must be properly documented.

More than 300 Filipino workers have been deported since the campaign started in January.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 13, 2003
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Dt 34:1-12
Gospel: Mt 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother or sister has sinned against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are in private, and if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

"If you are not listened to, take with you one or two others so that the case may be decided by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he still refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembled Church. But if he does not listen to the Church, then regard such one as a pagan or a publican.

"I say to you: whatever you bind on earth, heaven will keep bound; and whatever you unbind on earth, heaven will keep unbound.

"In like manner, I say to you: if on earth two of you are united in asking for anything, it will be granted to you by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered in my Name, I am there among them."

Commentary

Jesus establishes a way by which the good relations of those in the community can be maintained, so that the harmony that exists between brothers may not be destroyed. A brother who errs must be corrected. But Jesus here brings in the importance of the community in settling any dispute. The community of disciples is the focal point of today's gospel reading. A sin against a brother is not just a sin against him, it is also a sin against the community of believers who have God as their Father. Hence, setting oneself right with a brother or sister also entails setting oneself right with the community to which one belongs. The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings this reality into focus. Approaching the Sacrament is not meant to simply set things right between ourselves and God; it is also meant to set things straight between ourselves and those who belong to the community, the Church. This dimension is forgotten when we think that we should simply go straight to God and cut out the element of our involvement in the community. Our mistakes, our sins, are personal; there is no doubting that. But there is surely a social dimension to them as well. They hurt others just as much as they hurt us. Likewise, reconciling ourselves to God must also involve reconciling ourselves with others in the community who have also been affected by our mistakes.

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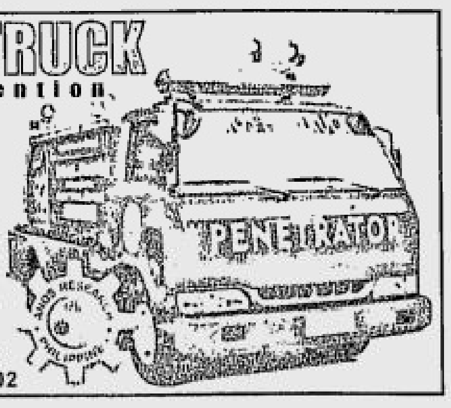

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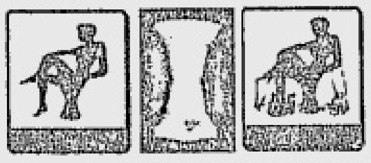

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ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS	August 16-September 13, 2003	Saturday	9:00AM-12:00NN
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING	August 18-29, 2003	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
EFFECTIVE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT	August 23-September 6, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR MGRS. & SUPERVISORS	August 16 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
RECORDS AND FILE MANAGEMENT	August 18-29, 2003	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
CUSTOMER INTIMACY	August 16, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
EFFECTIVE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	August 19-28, 2003	T-Th	6:00PM-9:00PM
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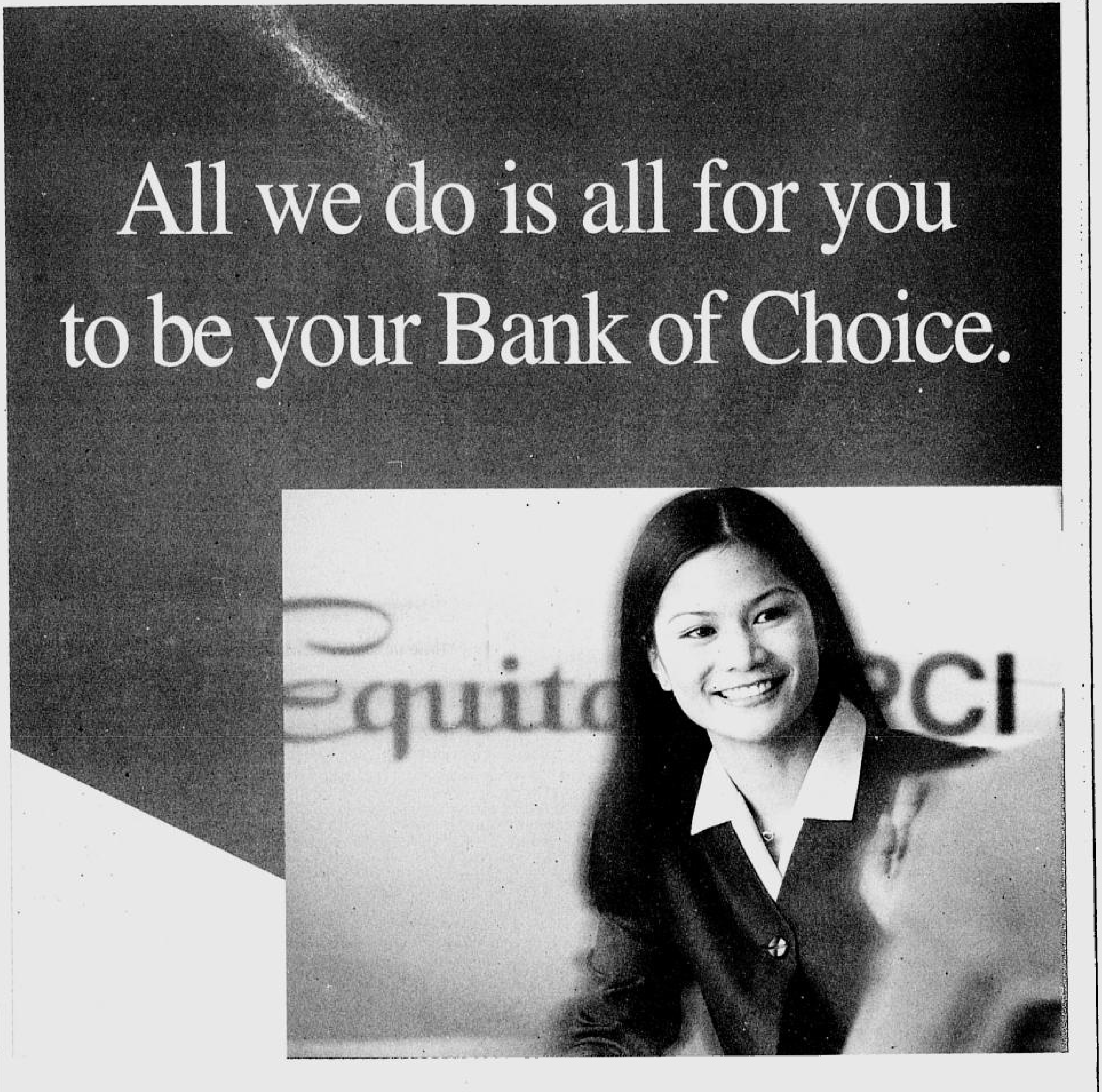
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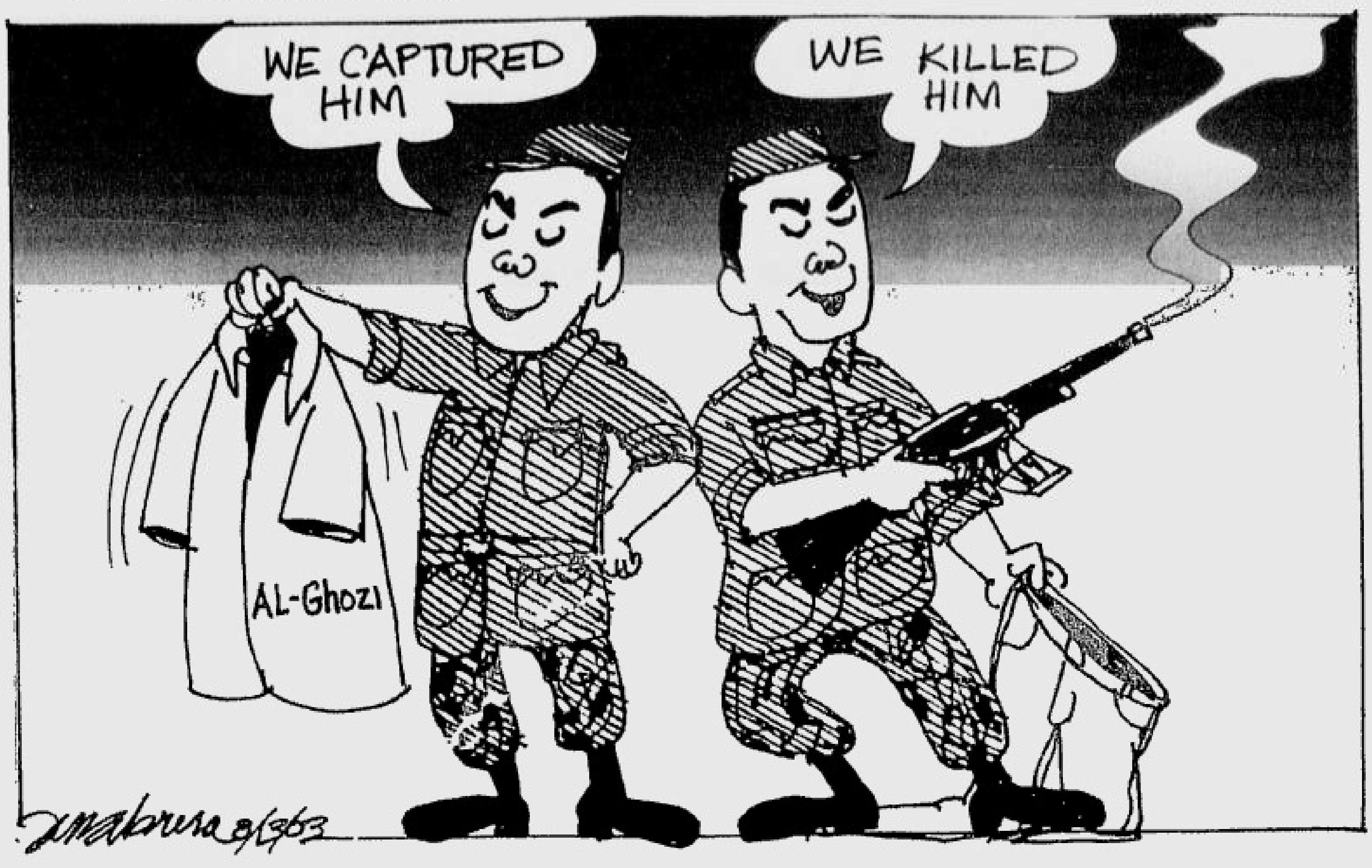


Poor defense

EDITORIAL

IF Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes were to defend the country like he is trying to defend himself now, the Philippines would be better off giving up without putting up a fight against intruders. Facing allegations that he had acquired ill-gotten wealth, Reyes' responses only tend to sink him deeper into a hole.

The young officers who mounted a failed coup last July 27 accused Reyes of enriching himself through the sale of guns and ammunition to Moro rebels and other corrupt practices. Taking their cue from the rebels, the media discovered that Reyes was among several generals who either owned or were building mansions. Reyes' mansion, which is still under construction in Fort Bonifacio, is estimated to be worth P10 million.

Reyes said he could "defend" his acquisition of the property. "I need a place to stay when I retire," he told a radio station Tuesday. "It is not in Forbes Park, Corinthian Gardens or Dasmariñas (Village)."

It's not the issue. No one will begrudge anybody else for trying to have a home of his own, especially after his retirement. And he can build it in any of those posh Makati villages—if he can afford it. The issue in Reyes' case is, where did he get the money to build a mansion even if it is located in a less-than-ritzy address in Taguig?

In his Statement of Assets and Liabilities, an annual requirement for government officials and employees, Reyes put his total assets at P4.8 million, an amount that is less than half of the estimated value of his mansion alone. He also wrote down in his SAL that his bank loan amounted to P2.4 million, which is about one-fourth of what he borrowed to build the mansion. So at the very least, Reyes is guilty of under-reporting his assets and his loans in a sworn public document.

Reyes said he was able to build the house with a loan he took out from PS Bank for which his children served as comakers and used part of the loan to buy the adjoining lot for P4.5 million. Given Reyes' total assets of P4.8 million and the fact that he is now pushing 60, that was certainly a very generous accommodation, raising questions about propriety. Aside from that, it would be interesting to find out how Reyes proposes to pay the loan with the kind of salary he is earning.

Cabinet members make less than P50,000 a month, and military officers much less than that. Reyes himself admitted that as a military officer, he was not able to build a house of his own. "My wife had to sew garments to put five sons to school," he said.

But joining the Cabinet two and a half years ago couldn't have improved by much his family's financial status. So unless sewing garments has become a very lucrative profession, Reyes will have to explain how he came by all his real property and other assets, now worth well over P10 million.

That may not look like a lot of money at a time when scams involve tens or even hundreds of millions, unless Reyes has other assets hidden somewhere. But here the damage cannot be measured in terms of possible losses to the government or to people alone, but also in terms of diminished pride and morale in the Armed Forces.

In the aftermath of the failed coup, Reyes deflected demands for his resignation by saying the rebels should not be rewarded for their treason. He also said the enemies of the state wanted him out since he was standing in the way of their objective of toppling the government. But now that the threat has abated, Reyes cannot make the same excuses to save his job. The fact that he was one of the three officials whose resignations were demanded by the young mutineers precisely for allegedly being corrupt makes it imperative for him to give a clear accounting of his assets. Failing that, he should have the courtesy to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to let him go.

Hope of deliverance

FOREIGN COMMENT

SUMMER holidays will afford George Bush but a brief respite from fierce congressional criticism. If matters go on as they are, Mr. Bush may be facing a political firestorm by October.

Revelations that US troops are dying in Iraq in much larger numbers than previously thought, especially in noncombat incidents, are the tinderbox that could yet ignite this conflagration. Nothing in US politics is more damaging to a president than the apparent squandering of American lives in badly run foreign adventures.

Iraqi elections next summer and subsequent troop withdrawals could come just in time to boost (or rescue) Mr. Bush's November reelection bid. It is this US domestic political timetable, rather than any sudden, altruistic urge to push for full democracy, that may be Iraqis' best hope of an early deliverance from their liberators.

The Guardian (London)

Everyone has to revalidate poll registration

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DO you want to vote in next year's elections? Then you have to revalidate your registration with the Commission on Elections. Everybody has to do this, even if he has already registered and has been voting for many years. This is a requirement of the "modernization" of the electoral system designed to eliminate flying voters and the birds and the bees from voters' lists.

Revalidation has started in Metro Manila, it was announced by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. It will spread to the provinces in the coming weeks and months, as the supply of validating machines (which are different from the counting machines) increases.

Just go to your barangay, give your name, address and other information. They will encode the data in the machine, plus your fingerprints and photograph, and that will be your permanent record and identification for the elections. The same procedure goes for new voters. You can't register more than once because your fingerprints will betray you—and the punishment for flying voters is stiff.

Even if you registered in the province, you can have it revalidated in Metro Manila, in the revalidating center nearest you. The computers will do the rest. There will be mobile revalidating machines in shopping malls, offices and eating places. If you chance upon one while shopping or eating out, or when you have to transact business at the city or municipal hall or any other office, take advantage of it. Avoid the last-minute rush. While those who fail to revalidate their names will still be allowed to vote, they will have to undergo a long process necessary to weed out flying voters. So take the trouble to revalidate early.

Offices and organizations with plenty of voters can ask the Comelec to send these mobile validating machines.

* * *

It looks like the Absentee Voting Law has gone pffft. According to the Comelec, very few overseas Filipinos are registering in proportion to their potential number (estimated at anywhere between 5 and 8 million). It is because Filipinos have to go to the nearest Philippine consulate to register. They will have to go back to vote on election day. That could mean traveling great distances, by plane or car or bus, at great expense in time and money, just to vote for some jerk who is probably just another thief.

For Filipinos scattered all over North America, or all over the deserts of Saudi Arabia, that's a big bother and sacrifice. In only three countries are overseas Filipinos allowed to vote by mail. (I think they are Japan, Canada and one other country where the mail system is supposed to be adequate, but the United States is not among them.)

Besides, if the constitutional assembly being pushed by ambitious congressmen to change the Constitution to shift to a parliamentary system of government succeeds, all the trouble that the Filipinos will go through just to register will be wasted. The overseas Filipinos can vote only for the president and vice president, not for any local candidate. If we shift to a parliamentary system, there will be no election for president and vice president, only for members of parliament, from among whom the prime minister, who will be the head of government, will be elected by the MPs themselves. All the effort, time and expense for the Absentee Voting Law, therefore, will be wasted. We just gave overseas Filipinos false hopes that they would be able to participate in Philippine elections, only to take it away from them at the last minute.

Another reason for the slow trickle of registrants, according to Abalos and Borra, is the affidavit that Filipino immigrants and permanent residents abroad have to sign before they can vote. This is the oath that they would return to the Philippines to take up residence there within three years after voting. Many are wary of signing this because they are not sure what would happen to them if they fail to fulfill that promise.

* * *

The House committee on transportation and communication will meet today to continue the investigation of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) for "alleged incompetence of certain key officials." This is in relation to the renewal of the Certificate of Inspection (CI) of M/V Golden Swan, a Ro-Ro (roll on-roll off) vessel, which has been pending with Marina and the Philippine Coast Guard for a year now. These two government agencies are playing ping-pong as to which should issue the CI, making a liar out of President Macapagal-Arroyo who promised to reduce red tape in her administration and promote the use of Ro-Ros in her Strong Republic Nautical Highway to facilitate the shipment of goods to and from Luzon and Mindanao.

Worse, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza has been very lackadaisical in cracking down on this foolishness between Marina Administrator Oscar Sevilla and the PCG. It was this lackadaisical working habit of Mendoza that forced an angry President to go to the Land Transportation Office (LTO), to see for herself the conditions there. What she saw made her blow her top and caused the head of LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso to roll.

Maybe the President should also pay a visit to the DOTC, Marina and the PCG to see the working habits of Mendoza, Sevilla and Adm. Reuben Lista and Damian Carlos.

Death, life

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE'S a death that's even greater cause for grief than the ones I've written about in the past months. It took place in an obscure corner of this bloated city ("metropolis" conjures wealth and enlightenment). It's the death of Pura V. Kalaw Annex High School in Project 4.

The event merited a small R.I.P. in the form of a brief story in our Metro section. The story said the city schools division superintendent, Victoria Fuentes, closed the school down at the opening of classes last June, refusing to allow its students to enroll. Despite pleas from the parents of the students for the school to reopen, Fuentes stood firm on her decision.

The story did not say why Fuentes closed down the school. It did say she suggested that the parents enroll their kids instead at Jose P. Laurel High School, which is just nearby and which has nine new classrooms and more to come.

I haven't seen Pura V. Kalaw High School though I've passed by Project 4 many times. I don't know in what state of dilapidation it's in. But I have seen many small obscure schools in this bedraggled city, as well as in many obscure places of this country, and for all their drab and dreary looks, I've thrilled to their sight.

That's probably one of the reasons I related to Gil Portes' "Mga Munting Tinig" strongly. I have known places like those, where the paint is peeling from the walls (and the sides smell of urine), where the roof leaks when it rains, where the teachers are bored and relieve it by talking of soap and selling tocino. But those things notwithstanding, you are glad the schools are there. You are glad to see kids walking around in their uniforms, huddled in corners talking gaily or around the fishball vendor outside the gate, fishing out crumpled bills from pockets.

The other sight I've thrilled to, despite its even more decrepit state, is the public library. I don't know how many more of them are left. I remember writing about one many years ago. I saw it in a small road in San Francisco del Monte, near the barangay hall. It was impoverished by most standards, but it had several kids reading books inside it. It must have died, too, because I haven't seen it for many years now. I think it's now a karaoke joint, which adds supreme insult to horrible injury.

These are deaths that demand to be mourned, whatever the reasons for their passing, natural or (wo)man-made. They are beacons to boats in a storm-tossed sea. More than parks, more than trees, more than even terminally ill patients in the last stages of their afflictions, schools and public libraries are worth saving in this country, in this life. Why we give up on them so easily I'll never know.

But there's hope yet. The "life" in the title above refers to Metrobank's 19th Search for Outstanding Teachers Awards. There are 12 winners, for elementary, high school and college, chosen from 271 nominees. This year, for the first time, there's a winner from Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya, two greatly impoverished and benighted areas of the country.

I never thought I'd see the day when I'd praise a bank for promoting enlightenment—or for being enlightened enough to do this. But Metrobank deserves praise. I don't know a category of people in this country more worthy of being recognized for their effort, or more in need of money, than teachers. Never mind the trophy, just increase the cash. Though the cash isn't bad as it is: P100,000 for each winner, P50,000 for their schools. Surely Metrobank can afford more? Surely other banks can chip in?

But to go back to the praise: I'm glad Metrobank is doing this because teachers, and not OFWs, are the true modern heroes of this country. They're the ones who are doing most for the least reward. They're the ones who are sparking the light of learning in the kids but who are overlooked or even scorned for their pains. The public school teachers who went on strike during Isidro Cariño's time in the early 1990s called themselves "the national animal" because they said they had replaced the carabao for that dubious distinction. They were right. Until they went on strike, everyone thought they could be flogged to death without their ever complaining.

What do people say these days when you can't be good enough for anything? "*Mag-teacher ka na lang.*"

It's part of our suicidal tendencies as a people that we treat teachers that way. Think about it: We entrust our kids' brains to the very people we pay poorly, revile and ask to part with their lives while embracing ballot boxes. And then we complain of education going to the dogs. Well, education begins with teachers, and the teachers are going to the paddies. They're the new carabaos.

Awards alone won't do it. Indeed, if Metrobank's project does anything, it is only to point to the need for everyone to pitch in to make teaching an attractive prospect again. At the very least, by giving teachers the honor and respect they deserve. Money alone will never be an incentive to becoming a teacher.

The teachers used to have that in the past, honor and respect. They were looked up to as the pillars of the community, not as Japayuki rejects.

At the same time our stories about Metrobank's award and the death of Pura V. Kalaw High School came out, our front page was full of stories about troops hunting down Al-Ghozi, the fellow they let bolt from jail to begin with. There and then, you see what's messing us up. Government would rather put up a circus to bedazzle us than save a school or hire good teachers to educate us.

I don't know what happened, but I refuse to blame GMA's and Angelo Reyes' teachers for them.

Legitimacy—the curse of GMA and Aquino

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THERE is no point in arguing that the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos was not rocked by coups because he was a soldier and it takes a soldier to control the military.

Nor can it be said that the administrations that were shaken by coups in the post-Marcos years were headed by women—President Corazon Aquino and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The implication of this argument, which has sexist overtones, is that the military cannot accept wholeheartedly a woman commander in chief, despite the explicit constitutional command that the armed forces should be subordinated to civilian authority. There is little to suggest that gender had anything to do with the vulnerability of the Aquino and Macapagal governments to coups.

A common thread that runs through both the Aquino and Macapagal governments would explain the recurrence of coup attempts. This thread is that both governments were battered by challenges to their political legitimacy.

Although President Aquino was installed by people power, until now, segments of the military, identified with former Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and his protégé, Col. Gregorio Honasan, have never accepted the notion that it was people power that installed Ms Aquino to the presidency.

In their stubborn perspective, Ms Aquino owes her installation to the segment of the military that plotted a coup during the twilight months of the Marcos dictatorship; that the military mutiny declared by Enrile and then Gen. Fidel Ramos sparked the rebellion against the Marcos regime that triggered the wave of military defections, knocking out the foundations of the Marcos dictatorship. To them, President Aquino owed her presidency to the putschists who, by implication, held her hostage to their ambitions of power.

This line of thought disregards the view that the mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo in February 1986 could have been crushed by Marcos, who was then still supported by a large body of loyalist troops, had it not been for the mass mobilization of civilians coming to the aid of the beleaguered mutineers—a manifestation of people power that certainly was ample, visible proof to Marcos that he had lost popular support.

A fact that cannot be ignored is that the mutiny was preceded by the snap election, of which the counting of votes was not officially completed, although there were strong indications that Marcos stole the elections through massive cheating. It was this widely-shared—domestically and by international observers—perception that fueled political mobilization behind Ms Aquino. So, evidence indicates that the military rebels and the Enrile faction had to cede power to the civilian opposition because they were assailed by the massive manifestation of people power behind Ms Aquino.

Ms Aquino was never officially confirmed the winner of the snap elections although, from independent and non-official tabulations, she was polling heavily ahead of Marcos when the Comelec tabulation was stopped. It is this gap that became the source of the challenges to the legitimacy of the Aquino presidency. This ambiguity continues to be echoed by former Marcos functionaries and partisans.

This ambiguity was the festering sore that fueled the seven coup attempts on the Aquino government—most of them masterminded and staged by the cabal associated with Honasan and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement. Their recurrent armed challenges against the Aquino government derived sustenance in the belief that they had been cheated by Edsa of what was theirs, and so their coups were actions intended to regain power that was theirs by right.

The question of legitimacy plaguing the Macapagal presidency flows from the manner of her accession to the presidency through People Power II which paved the way for the withdrawal of military support from the Estrada government. Macapagal's accession, however, has been stamped with legitimacy by the Supreme Court and with the recognition extended to it by the international diplomatic community and by both Houses of Congress.

Despite these legal foundations of her legitimacy, Estrada and cohorts continue to undermine the new government and its institutional support systems, plotting its overthrow. Small wonder that Estrada's associates have now been linked by the government to the failed July 27 coup. The Estrada gang fed on the grievances of the officers.

Honasan, the perennially failed coup maker, has translated his old frustrations by involving himself in the latest coup which has the stamp of his blueprint for the coups of the 1980s. The challenges—including armed revolt—to the Macapagal presidency will never cease unless she gets a new term legitimized by elections. Whether she wins—assuming she reverses her Dec. 30 decision not to run—is problematic. Between now and May 2004, the road is planted with land mines challenging her legitimacy regardless of whether they come from the Estrada cohorts or military rebels inclined toward the use of force rather than political process to change leadership.

One of the soft spots of the Macapagal government is that it was installed by military intervention, a virus infection from the time of the RAM coups that remains to this day. The military mindset is fostered by a history of interventions that were crucial to the installation of a civilian government.

When doctors do wrong

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAST April, Edmund Silvestre, a reporter with the New York City-based newspaper Filipino Reporter, was on his way to Subic with his family when his aunt, Paciencia Mance, 80, suffered a heart attack. They rushed her first to the Bulacan Polymedic Hospital in Guiguinto, Bulacan, where she received emergency care, until she was transferred later that day to the Chinese General Hospital.

As Silvestre recounts in a letter he sent to Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, author of the "medical malpractice" or "patient's rights" bill, while his aunt was in some pain and her lungs and chest were filled with fluid "she was alert and upbeat. In fact, we were able to videotape her last moments—talking and exchanging banter with us—minutes before her untimely death."

Silvestre says he and his other relatives witnessed his aunt's death. "The attending physician issued a strict order to not give my aunt any liquid or fluids. However, a young resident doctor must have missed the order. While inserting a feeding tube through my aunt's nose, that resident, without warning, pumped water into the tube. It was too late to stop him. My aunt cried '*Masakit, masakit* (It's painful, it's painful)!' and in a matter of seconds, she was dead—apparently from asphyxiation."

While members of his family considered filing a formal complaint of negligence against the resident and the hospital, Silvestre says they were discouraged by everyone they consulted, considering that there is no law on medical malpractice in this country.

* * *

IN HIS letter to Rodriguez, Silvestre notes that the congressman's bill (the Medical Malpractice Act of 2002), which failed to make it out of committee in the House, "was deemed too harsh by critics" because it penalized erring doctors with a jail term and an enormous fine. Others warned that passage of such a law would drive up the cost of medical services, since doctors would be forced to take out malpractice insurance and seek to recover the cost by hiking their fees, while practicing "defensive medicine" by ordering expensive diagnostic tests as insurance against possible suits.

But Silvestre urges the congressman not to give up the fight. "I believe you can still come up with a more acceptable version of the bill—less stiff but one that will compel medical professionals to police themselves and make them extra vigilant..." One suggestion: the creation of an "independent agency or regulatory body that would monitor and record complaints of medical negligence, investigate each of the cases and identify the blundering practitioners."

In the United States, says Silvestre, up to 98,000 Americans are killed every year by medical malpractice. "In the Philippines, no one is counting."

* * *

SILVESTRE stresses that he isn't condemning the health care-giving profession wholesale. In fact, he wishes to commend the staff of the Bulacan Polymedic who gave his aunt "excellent medical care." Even if the hospital's facilities were limited, he says, the staff "was very professional and very caring. They helped stabilize my aunt's condition and later that day arranged for her transfer by ambulance...We won't forget them, especially that nurse, Janet Mendoza Gabriel, who was so efficient and warm. I was observing her the whole time we were there and probably she doesn't know it but she's a world-class nurse."

But he does point out the need for greater vigilance on the part of patients, hospital administrators and even the rest of the medical community. "We place a great deal of faith in the medical professionals, facilities and companies that we depend on. We place our trust in their diagnoses and courses of treatment. However, it is important to remember that these medical professionals are not beyond questioning. Mistakes can and are made that cause patients to suffer dangerous side effects, significant injury and even death."

* * *

THERE'S news that the fact-finding team created by the Department of Health to investigate the deaths of the Calisaan quadruplets has cleared the Manila Central University and other hospitals of any culpability in the infants' deaths. But it recommended the closure of the Espiritu Maternity and Medical Clinic to which the mother, Jocelyn, was first rushed when she experienced premature contractions and which apparently had been in charge of her prenatal care.

"The survival of the babies depended so much on Dr. Espiritu, who conducted prenatal checkup on the mother," the report said, adding that the clinic was "not suitable and ill-equipped" to handle a multiple delivery.

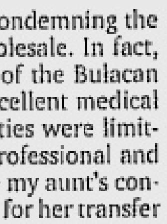
Perhaps what should be stressed at this point is that the health and survival of the mother and infant (or infants) depend on the quality of care they receive long before the moment of birth. Proper prenatal care not only ensures a healthy, trouble-free pregnancy and a healthy baby, it also allows the doctor or caregiver time to spot potential problems and prepare for them. Which is, by the way, what should have been done in the case of the Calisaan quadruplets.

Doctors I've talked to say the trouble with many expectant couples is that, after the initial consultations when no problems are spotted, they stop coming for the monthly checkups, thinking they're no longer necessary, and in order to save money. But while pregnancy and delivery are or should no longer be life-threatening with proper medical care, anything can go wrong at any point before, during or even after delivery.

Come to think of it, safe motherhood and safe birth start long before pregnancy even, with the couple able to plan their lives and their families and having only the number of children they can raise safely, healthily and lovingly.

Of street names and lifestyle checks after death

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

DRIVING aimlessly around Malate a year ago, I wondered if Carmen Guerrero Nakpil ever considered buying a house and lot on Guerrero Street on the corner of Nakpil Street, or vice versa. It must be a different thrill to live on a street that bears your name or surname. There is a Parañaque subdivision with streets named after beauty queens, making me wonder if Gloria Diaz or Margie Moran would consider living there. Jose Rizal's nephew, Dr. Leoncio Lopez Rizal, lived off Shaw Boulevard, on Lopez-Rizal Street, Mandaluyong, Rizal. This would have been more than a triple whammy if the Philippines were renamed—Rizalina or the Rizaline Islands.

More than his astounding collection of Philippine art and antiques, I do envy Jaime Laya because he also has a street name in a Parañaque subdivision. Ambeth is a strange nickname concocted by my crazy parents, so there is no chance of finding such a street name in this country, though I had myself photographed on Lambeth Bridge in London, posing in such a way that I covered the "L." I found two M. Ocampo streets in Metro Manila and recommend these to any of my Tarlac relations whose initials match the streets. In desperation, I settled for Trece de Agosto Street in Manila even if I hate its history. Trece de Agosto used to be known as "Occupation Day" and commemorated the surrender of Spanish Manila to the invading American forces on Aug. 13, 1898. Why this street? It's my birthday. However, I must state categorically here that despite my familiarity with the period, I wasn't born in 1898.

Aside from street names, I also search historical sources for people with the same name or birthday. A small reference in one of my notebooks led to a stray bit of useless information in Volume 34 of that monumental compilation of documents known to scholars as the "Blair and Robertson." The material is on the death of Legazpi. It became relevant in the light of present-day lifestyle checks on public servants. On Aug. 13, 1572, two ships named Santiago and San Juan sailed to Mexico from Manila with the mail. Thus, the news of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi's death a week later had to wait for the next scheduled ships to be transmitted to Mexico and on to Spain. We don't know the cause of death and just take the word of eyewitnesses who claimed Legazpi died of a heart attack on Aug. 20, 1572. An autopsy of his remains would have helped but then even that is long gone. If you visit San Agustin Church in Intramuros today, you will find the Legazpi chapel on the left of the main altar. It's a small bare room dominated by a bronze effigy of the "Adelantado" on top of an elegant sarcophagus of dark marble. There is nothing in the grave, Legazpi's remains having been scattered by the British when they took Manila in the 18th century.

Fray Francisco de Ortega wrote on Legazpi's passing on June 6, 1573 and what I find amazing here is that the most powerful man in the Spanish Philippines had very little property for relatives to scramble for. The good friar related:

"His death was greatly deplored and is so even at the present day, for doubtless his valor and wisdom have been greatly needed. Those who regarded him as wicked in his life will now canonize him as a saint. I believe that he is in glory or on the way to it for he was a good Christian and if he erred in some things, I believe he desired to do right, while in some other things he did the best he could."

How I wish people will be just as kind to my memory and my work when I am six feet under the ground. What the good friar found inspiring (and I find amazing) was that despite all the opportunities to amass great wealth with his position, Legazpi actually died poor. He wrote:

"He died poor, which is a great evidence of his goodness. That was a cause for great confusion to those who regarded him as very rich, and who were murmuring about, saying that he had a chest of gold and more than 25,000 pesos in *tostones*. All that he was found to have on the day of his death was 460 pesos in two little sacks. These he had asked as a loan a few days before. He had also in gold about 120 pesos not counting a large chain and a small one [gold?] which he had brought from his native land. He also had the wrought silver of his table service. All the rest of this was not worth 500 pesos. This is the whole of the wealth and treasure that he had. Of this fact, I am practically an eyewitness, for I was present at his death and at the inventory of his property."

If you die poor today, people will not praise you for your goodness but criticize you for being stupid. As a boy I would listen to the grown-ups talk admiringly about public servants who retired poor or at least maintained the same socio-economic level they had when they entered government service. These days the mood is different. Derision has replaced admiration. Government officials who leave office poor or maintain a simple lifestyle are described as "*tanga*." History is not just an exercise in memory, but a mirror to look at ourselves and wonder whether we have indeed progressed as a people in the past five centuries.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'The bravest soldiers on earth'

HIGH BLOOD

Pablo A. Trozado

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

SINCE I was young, I have always admired the Filipino soldiers who are many things except cravens. Stories of how they fought always tell of bravery above and beyond the call of duty. Sometimes, I have these thoughts about the genes of our early heroes, like Lapu-Lapu, Gabriela Silang and Andres Bonifacio, possibly running in the blood of Filipino soldiers. These heroes wielded bolos against the guns of the Spaniards. What they lacked in weaponry, they made up for with valor.

During the Japanese occupation, Filipino soldiers engaged in a war that defined their burning passion to fight for dignity, prompting no less than Sir Winston Churchill to call them the "bravest soldiers on earth." An American USAFFE officer, under whose command included Filipinos, described them with endearing terms as "trapped like rats but dying like men in the highest degree." He said that the sight of a comrade hit directly by a mortar and blown to smithereens did not faze the young Filipino warriors who continued charging toward enemy lines as they fell one by one.

My family has a share of sad memories from World War II. Among the tens of thousands of Filipino soldiers who perished in that war was my brother Francisco, then 17 years old and a senior high school student when the war broke out. He joined the USAFFE against the wishes of my mother, sneaking away with some fellow volunteers. Letters he slipped at chance through different messengers bore comforting messages for the family, although we knew his life was always in danger. The last letter we received came not from him, but from his commanding officer telling us that he had been killed—somewhere in the forests of Sta. Maria, Laguna. A sniper's bullet had pierced through his chest. It happened in 1945, when the war was almost over.

At the first sight of Japanese air attack over Manila, Col. Jesus Villamor flew a rickety plane donated by the United States Air Force and engaged the Japanese Squadron in a dogfight that lasted for hours, perplexing the Japanese pilots with his somersaults. He landed after downing two enemy planes.

But there were civilian heroes, too, whom I fondly call "accidental soldiers": a boy named Cuenca volunteered to drive a Japanese Army unit up a hilltop camp; just before getting to the place, he drove the truck down a cliff, killing himself but taking 31 of the enemy. There was the little telephone girl in San Fernando, La Union who refused to leave her switchboard despite oncoming Japanese planes. She was fatally hit by an airborne machinegun fire. And there were the bar girls of Manila, who acted as auxiliaries to the intelligence network of Filipino guerrillas operating in the city.

Time drags as it heals the wounds of war. But for the Filipino soldiers, the glory remains, the saga continues, renewing itself in every encounter—even beyond our land. The feat of our Tenth Battalion Combat Team in Korea could be expected to happen only in a war movie, not in real action. At midnight of April 22, 1951 Capt. Conrado D. Yap, commanding officer of its Tank Company, and his men were posted at Yulton Hill, South Korea, acting as advance elements of the frontline defense of the US Army, when a large band of enemy force attacked their position. At the first burst of gunfire, Lt. Jose Artiaga and some men were hit. But Captain Yap, determined to hold their position at all costs despite receiving an authority to withdraw, ordered a covering support and with fixed bayonet personally led a counter attack until he fell dead from enemy bullets. After this encounter, the Allied Forces formally assembled before his body and gave him and his men honorary salutes.

At the height of the Communist-inspired Hukbalahap movement, two Scout Rangers, Msgt. Francisco M. Camacho and Cpl. Weene Martillana, were sent on a dangerous mission to get, dead or alive, Huk commander Eddie Villapando, whose feats had placed a blot on the records of the Batangas and Cavite military. Too dangerous was the mission that every step required prudence and precision.

The two soldiers, posing as civilians, succeeded in befriending Villapando and his bodyguards. On Dec. 20, 1955, Camacho and Martillana were with Villapando and two bodyguards on aboard an owner-type jeep cruising along the highway between San Pablo City and Calauan, Laguna. With Camacho at the wheel, he stopped the jeep to check a little "engine trouble." As he alighted from the vehicle, Martillana followed to "assist." As the seconds ticked away, silence descended upon the group until after pre-arranged signals "*malamig ano?*" and "*oo nga*," the two commandos grabbed two submachine guns from the hood of the jeep and opened fire at the rebels, instantly killing two, Villapando one of them. The other bodyguard was seriously wounded but, before succumbing to the wounds, was able to fire back at Camacho who died later in a hospital.

Ssgt. Miguel D. Pastolero was a Scout Ranger trained for quick and destructive intrusion into enemy territory. Sometime in the early part of the '50s, at a barrio in Capiz, he and a handful of men, posing as fellow Hukbalahap members, were able to infiltrate a dissidents' encampment where at that moment ranking officers of the organization were in a meeting. As they positioned themselves strategically, some dissidents noticed their suspicious movements. Suddenly, apparently having detected the presence of army commandos, the rebels opened fire, immediately killing some of the soldiers. Pastolero was hit but after regaining presence of mind, hit back at the rebels with his Browning automatic rifle until he fell dead, but not without leaving eight dissidents killed.

Two historic events where they sided with the people enhanced my admiration for the Filipino soldiers. I was present at both Edsa I and Edsa II and seeing our soldiers receive roses from the nuns touched me to the core. "There goes our army," I said.

But I feel bad when I hear Filipinos criticizing our soldiers. In this country, to be a soldier is to be a hero—to live with a meager salary and leave one's family most likely in a squatters' area, to risk life, perhaps, even die in an unending war in the service of country.

There was once an army sergeant who could not pay the college tuition fee of his daughter, so he went to a blood bank. "Charity begins at home," he said. "But I am willing to spill the rest for our country." Anecdotes about the heart and bravery of our Filipino soldiers abound.

Pablo A. Trozado is a freelance journalist.

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LETTERS

GMA didn't panic

THERE are some fine points which Amado Doronila missed out in his Aug. 1 column.

First, he failed to note that in the morning of July 27, around 7-8 a.m., President Macapagal-Arroyo went live on nationwide TV to impose a 5 p.m. deadline for the illegal Oakwood occupants to surrender, or else. The "AFP was given orders to use reasonable force" to flush them out.

Second, by the media's persistent coverage of the aborted coup, it was learned that Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV has a classmate within the President's close-in security circle. So, in all likelihood, there was constant communication between the two to reach a peaceful settlement, and all these happening within the President's "war room," so to speak.

These two events alone should have left Doronila weighing scenarios outside and inside Malacañang, rather than picture the President as having "panicked" during those critical moments.

How can the President be panicky when she was already psychologically prepared to handle the crisis, as earlier reports even quoted her as the one who said that a coup was about to unfold?

To say that the President panicked at the height of the siege is no longer a figure of speech, the presence of the hedging word "apparently" notwithstanding, but a declaration of a fact. Doronila should know there is a world of difference between the two.

The first instance is used to add color, variety and spice to written opinion and commentaries. The second, however, constitutes a factual statement and therefore should be subjected to the basic criteria of objective reporting, like double-check, counter-check and re-validation of gathered data for accuracy.

—BONG PEDALINO,
Philippine Information Agency-Maasin, 2/F LGU Bldg., Port Area,
Maasin City, Southern Leyte

Safety from white-collar terrorists

IT'S getting harder to tell who's wearing the white hats and who's not.

Four higher-ups from the internal revenue and customs bureaus, for example, have (allegedly) been caught, living beyond their means.

There is a front-page warning (that can also be read on the Internet) to "think twice" about the Philippines as a reliable custodian of other people's money. Caveat Filipinas?

A slap on the face of the employees of both bureaus who labor for peanuts and still account for every single centavo before going home.

In the United States, corporate criminals are less likely to steal their company (or government) blind because of audits, pre-hire disclosure policies, frequent "lifestyle" checks (not just) for higher-ups and termination if caught, but some still try.

In the Philippines, the fox always seems to be two steps ahead of the hounds. People who know what's "going on" don't talk. Those who squeal are sandbagged by kibitzers, the gossips, the hypocrites and, of course, the "powers-that-be."

One theory is that if you don't pay people for what (they think) they're worth, you're just asking to be fleeced. Another is that everyone has "their price."

In either case, the Philippines gets another world-class black eye it doesn't need. The "missing link" in the Philippine economy—is safety from white-collar terrorists. Not just the ones with guns.

—ELLIOT ANDERSON,
Pan-Ay Clarin,
Misamis Occidental

Farcical democracy

OUR leaders claim that we have a democratic government but obviously this is just lip service. The day it did not allow the young rebel officers to appear in the House of Representatives and the Senate is proof enough that this so-called democratic government is a farce. I wonder what these young officers have that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Interior Secretary Joey Lina are so afraid about. Whose interests are these two secretaries really serving—that of the Filipino people or their own?

—ANA LINDA G. SUPNET,
Sta Rita Ilaya, Batangas City

Smoggy claim of achievement vs air pollution

IN HER last State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo stated that her government reduced air pollution in Metro Manila by 15 percent within six months. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources largely credits the Clean Air Act and the establishment of air emission-testing centers in Metro Manila for this "environmental achievement." We say that the air quality in Metro Manila has not improved and remains one of the worst in the world. We see this from the departments' data—or lack of data.

As of June 2003, the government has not presented any National Air Quality Status Report showing the extent of pollution in the country. The Philippine Environment Monitor admits pollution estimates for Metro Manila contain significant discrepancies. The impact of area sources of pollution, such as industries and power plants, is not accounted for. The most comprehensive pollution emissions inventory in Metro Manila was done in 1990 yet and this was only partially updated in 2001.

Secondly, How can there be a decrease in air pollution from motor vehicles when, in fact, the number of motor vehicles in Metro Manila and in the whole country keeps increasing? There were 8.32 percent more vehicles registered in 2002 than in 2001. In the first quarter of 2003, car sales jumped by 33.4 percent compared to the last year during the same period. In Metro Manila, motor vehicles account for 31 percent of particulate matter (PM) in the air, 9 percent of sulfur dioxide, 58 percent of nitrogen oxides and 99.2 percent of carbon monoxide.

Thirdly, there has been no significant reduction in the volume of stationary sources of pollution in the metropolis. Most industrial sources are still located in Metro Manila's airshed. These include major types of industry, such as, thermal power stations, cement manufacturing plants and oil refineries.

Moreover, the emission testing of vehicles required for LTO registration does not necessarily ensure reduced emission of air pollutants. Government corruption, high registration fees, steep prices of vehicle mechanical parts, among others, force many vehicle owners to pay bribes as a cheaper option. Even the processes in accrediting emission-testing centers and the actual air testing under the CAA are fraught with corruption.

These observations belie the claim that there has been a significant reduction of air pollution in Metro Manila.

As long as the country remains pre-industrial, a perpetual market for imported, pollutive products and technologies, such as used motor engines and outdated coal and incinerator technologies, the air quality will continue to deteriorate especially in Metro Manila. As long as the government remains corrupt and shortsighted, no laws or policies can comprehensively address the root causes of air pollution in the Philippines.

—CLEMENTE G. BAUTISTA JR.,
policy advocacy officer,
Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment,
26 Matulungin St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Give extra care to mass-grave finds

TELEVISION newscast viewers last July 24 were treated to the latest "discovery" of a mass grave in Majayjay, Laguna, by the military, which claimed to contain the skeletal remains of deep penetration agents summarily executed by the New People's Army

While the claim of the Armed Forces of the Philippines may be true, the military owes it unto itself and to the whole nation, to document as fully as possible this mass-grave situation. This is necessary to build up its case; to identify the individual victims now represented by their skeletal remains and associated personal effects; to ascertain the manner of their deaths; and to ultimately relinquish the individual remains to their rightful-claimants for their final burial.

The TV footage however showed a haphazardly dug-up pit and soldiers obviously untrained in systematic exhumation and recovery efforts, carelessly picking off skeletal remains and their associated grave items from a waterlogged muddy pit with heavy sharp pointed shovels; and disarticulating (separating) important parts of the skeleton needed for individual identification (such as the skull) from their natural assemblage, for media photography. The footage also showed soldiers and media practitioners mindlessly trampling all over the grave site.

The above activities contaminate the "crime scene" and might have already compromised the integrity and usefulness of the very evidence that the military could use in its case against the perpetrators. It may have confused the exhumation context to the extent that efforts at individual identification of the remains might have been already undermined or made much more difficult even for an accomplished forensic anthropologist. Such activities often result in the loss or further destruction of grave materials, leading to further loss of information still embedded in initially intact skeletons with their associated personal effects.

We urge the military to safeguard its credibility by ensuring that similar efforts in the future would be attended by systematic exhumation efforts, maximal documentation, retrieval and preservation of skeletal remains and their associated grave materials, and thorough and competent analysis by credible and independent forensic experts. Without such safeguards, the military, the victims of human rights violations and the whole nation will lose out from such mindless, and for some quarters, suspicious efforts.

—JEROME B. BAILEN,
professor, Department of Anthropology, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
and LOUIE G. CRISMO,
secretary general,
Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND),
4-D Maningning St.,
Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

No coup sympathizer

WE wish to make it clear that Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta has had no dealings, whatsoever, with either the lawyers of the junior military officers who were implicated in a failed mutiny against the government, much less with the renegade officers themselves, as what Belinda Olivares-Cunanan implied in her column (PDI, 8/4/03).

If you will recall, Oreta was among the first to condemn the July 27 siege in Makati City because she believes that such incidents of military adventurism have no place in a democracy like ours, which was restored through the bloodless Edsa Revolt of 1986.

The press conference that Cunanan referred to was apparently the one that the lawyers of the renegade soldiers held at the Public Information and Media Relations Office (Pimro) of the Senate, following the Committee of the Whole hearing on the Oakwood mutiny. The Oreta that she claimed to have been "in the background" was the senator's photo in the calendar tucked on the Pimro wall along with the calendars of several other senators.

Oreta has never believed in the concept of grabbing power through extra constitutional means, as espoused by some messianic groups. It was Oreta who advised President Macapagal-Arroyo's disenchanted allies in civil society a year ago to just wait for 2004 instead of pressing her ouster from Malacañang through extra constitutional means. What more now that only 10 months remain before Ms Macapagal finishes her term?

At a time when disinformation appears to have reared its ugly head once more, all sectors, including members of the media, should be more discerning with the reports and rumors that come their way. We should avoid becoming unwitting purveyors of false reports being circulated apparently by the same quarters that vilified Oreta before the public two years ago.

—BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN,
chief of staff, Office of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta,
Rm. 511, GSIS Bldg.,
Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Let justice be done

THE PRESIDENT hit the nail right on the head when she said that the "resurgence of mutinies can be traced in part to a reluctance to enforce justice against military adventurism." The 1986 and 1989 coups are partly to be blamed on the frailty of our economy today. This time around, justice must prevail especially that hard pieces of evidence point to a dirty destabilization plot by vested interests.

For the public's interest, it is but right that the government seek "the maximum penalty for those who planned, led and executed [the] misadventure." Somewhere down the road when the positive impact of such a principled position would have been reaped, no one might even remember that it was the President who took such an unpopular position.

But such is a self-sacrifice that a good leader makes.

—JOSEPHINE DELA MERCED,
mjdelamerced@yahoo.com

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Reflections on the Magdalo mutiny

COMMENTARY

Soliman M. Santos Jr.

IT may be too early to judge whether the Magdalo mutiny was something positive or negative, in the balance, for the country. As the cliché goes, history will judge. At the height of the mutiny and its immediate aftermath, many described and continue to describe it as a "wake-up call." It was like the famous question of the recently deceased former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez immediately after he was ambushed in 1982: "General, what is happening to our country?" Both, in different ways, were eloquent statements of the state of the nation.

It is just unfortunate that it had to take a mutiny of young military officers for that "wake-up call" to be heard. But it would be even more unfortunate if we all instead "snooze" and go back to sleep or "business (or government) as usual" after the initial rousing. That is what our history shows, a tendency of recurrent "wake-up calls" and "snoozes," to use hotel parlance.

As the Makati crisis was over, a visibly disappointed Magdalo group leader Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV said, among other things, that "corruption would go on." In other words, real change or reforms would not happen, at least "in my lifetime." What is worrying is not so much the corruption or the other national problems that we face but the apparent loss of hope in that statement. And it comes from one whose young idealism, even though characterized as "misguided" by some, represents a source of hope for the country.

Jose Rizal, who inspired the Katipunan, whether Magdalo or Magdiwang, once asked: "Where are the youths who will dedicate their innocence, their idealism, their enthusiasm to the good of the country? Where are they who will give generously of their blood to wash away so much shame, crime and abomination?... Where are you, young men and women, who are to embody in yourselves the life-force that has been drained from our veins, the pure ideals that have grown stained in our minds, the fiery enthusiasm that has been quenched in our hearts?"

We have to find new sources of hope, in terms not only of people who can respond to the "wake-up call" but also of how they respond and act. We have to get it right, and not only about the punishment of the mutineers. It is good, to start with, that there are calls and steps to investigate "the roots of the mutiny." This is not or should not be just a matter of rooting out the civilian component or political leadership alleged to be behind the mutiny. This should go to the root causes of the mutiny, or why these young officers rebelled. And speaking of root causes of the Magdalo mutiny, we can and should go beyond the stated causes.

For example, the Magdalo group laments the alleged selling of arms and ammunition by defense and military officials to the MILF rebels because these have ended up being used against AFP soldiers and have therefore sustained and prolonged the Moro insurgency which has been going on for the past 35 years (counting from the official founding date of the MNLF in 1968 occasioned by the Jabidah Massacre)—older even than Trillanes himself! But they themselves do not seem to question the premise of going to war. In other words, it is as if even an "all-out war" against the MILF is all right as long as defense and military officials do not sell arms and ammunition to the MILF rebels.

While Congress is at it, including an investigation into the Davao bombings, why not investigate also the "all-out wars" of Estrada and Macapagal-Arroyo against the MILF which keep setting back the peace talks? These have never been investigated by Congress, the same way it has investigated interim peace agreements with the MILF.

The Magdalo mutiny lasted less than one day, while the Moro insurgency and the communist insurgency (counting from the founding of the CPP also in 1968) have been going for 35 years already. Why have these rebellions been protracted or recurrent? Why haven't these been fully resolved or adequately addressed over decades and several presidential administrations? In other words, why do "the best and the brightest" of several generations, on both or all sides, have to go to war with each other?

The President did say in her Sona that there are advances in the peace negotiations with the MILF and the NDF, and that next week the GRP-MILF peace talks would resume, this time, toward a final peace agreement. But haven't we heard this before with the MNLF? Our peace processes on the Moro and communist rebel fronts, counting from 1975 and 1986 respectively, have become protracted like the armed conflict itself. Will we finally find and reach a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Moro problem in a matter of a few months? Or will it just be a negotiation of concessions necessary to achieve the cessation of hostilities, cooptation of rebel leaders and demobilization of rebel combatants?

Too often, peace processes no longer continue and proceed to thresh out the substantive agenda or issues of the peace talks once ceasefires, demobilizations or disarmaments have been achieved. It is as if the impetus or momentum gets lost, and inertia and comfort set in.

It is interesting to note that the President characterized the Magdalo mutineers as "bordering on the fringes of terrorism." The Magdalo group was actually in danger, like the MILF was for a while, of being lumped in the same league of extraordinary "terrorists" as the Abu Sayyaf and the CPP-NPA. The Magdalo group, of course, responded by saying "We are not terrorists, we are soldiers who want to speak the truth." Too often, rebel groups, even though long in existence decades before 9/11, are tagged as "terrorist" and treated accordingly, thereby aggravating rather than solving the rebellion.

And then we pride ourselves with the peaceful conflict resolution of the Magdalo mutiny—we did it "without bloodshed." One wonders though whether it would have been the same or ended the same way had it been a group of MILF or NPA rebels which took over Oakwood and there were no "mistahs" to talk with fellow "mistahs." It seems the government or the AFP would treat different rebel groups differently—depending on whether these were soldiers, Moro or communist rebels. What is sad is that both the loyal and rebellious military would probably agree when it comes to the way to treat the Moro and communist rebels. Can the young idealism that is there in the military and, for that matter, other sectors of society, also become a positive force in support of a comprehensive peace process for the good of the country and the people?

Soliman M. Santos Jr. is a human rights lawyer (Abadilla case), peace advocate and legal scholar. He is the author of "The Moro Islamic Challenge" (UP Press, 2001) and "Peace Advocate" (DLSU Press, 2002).

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Liberia begins post-Taylor era; hopes for peace high

MONROVIA—Liberia on Tuesday began its first full day without Charles Taylor as president, as efforts were set to intensify to get a lasting ceasefire and begin distribution of urgently needed humanitarian aid.

Taylor on Monday stepped down as president and left the country, a key demand of rebels who have taken over four-fifths of the country of 3.3 million people and laid siege to the capital for over two months.

He handed over power to his vice president, Moses Blah.

His departure for asylum in Nigeria sparked hope that peace would finally return to Liberia, ravaged by two bloody wars in which Taylor has been a key player.

The commander of the US task force of three warships sailing off the coast of the capital was expected to go ashore to coordinate reopening of the port of Monrovia to humanitarian aid.

The anti-Taylor rebels Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) control the port, which is key to resolving the humanitarian crisis in the capital, where some 250,000 people face acute food, water and medical shortages.

The rebels have earlier pledged to pull back after Taylor left the country.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Washington late on Monday that Gen. Thomas Turner would go ashore by Tuesday to meet the US ambassador in Monrovia, the commander of the West African peacekeeping force and the head of the rebel force that controls the port.

BLAH

"This is the time for all of the parties to commit themselves to a ceasefire, commit themselves to peace and let us begin the task of relieving the suffering that has afflicted the Liberian people for so long," Powell said.

The United States has resisted strong international calls to send peacekeeping troops to Liberia.

But it has moved the three amphibious warships—the USS Iwo Jima, USS Carter Hall and USS Nashville—within sight of Monrovia to send a "powerful message" to the warring factions on land, a US defense official said.

There are about 3,000 marines on the ships.

"I would not expect any large commitment of US forces," said Powell, but said some US troops might assist the west African peacekeepers secure and put the port back into operation. *AFP*

Miss Vietnam kidnapped

HANOI—A Vietnamese beauty queen has been kidnapped, allegedly by the son of a senior police officer who was upset that she was moving to Britain to begin university there, her mother and reports said Tuesday.

Pham Thi Mai Phuong, who was crowned Miss Vietnam in September last year, disappeared on Aug. 5 in the northeastern port city of Haiphong while heading home after attending an English class at a language school.

Her mother, Trieu Kim Oanh, said the family had subsequently received threats warning that Phuong could be killed. Most recently the death threats were aimed at the whole family, she said.

According to the state-run Tien Phong newspaper, the 18-year-old beauty was stopped by a group of men who bundled her into a car and drove off.

Her family reported her disappearance to the city's police but Phuong has not been seen or heard from since.

Radio Free Asia, citing a close family source who requested anonymity, said Phuong was kidnapped by a friend, Nguyen Binh Khanh, who did not want her to leave Vietnam for London where she had been awarded a scholarship by Luton University.

Apparently, Khanh, a police officer and son of Haiphong City Police Chief Nguyen Binh Doan, threatened to kill Phuong and then himself if she tried to leave the country, the US-government funded network said.

The Tien Phong, reporting from Haiphong, also said the son of a high-ranking police officer was involved in the case. It did not name Khanh.

An officer at the police department's crime division denied Khanh was involved in the kidnapping. He also said Doan was not available for comment. *AFP*

US base in Iraq attacked after US troops raid guerrilla lairs

TIKRIT, Iraq—Huge explosions rocked a US military base west of Baghdad, several hours after US troops raided two sleepy villages where they suspected pro-Saddam Hussein guerrillas were hiding.

US officials also on Monday announced the death of a US soldier, killed when assailants hurled a grenade at a police station he was protecting late Sunday in the town of Baquba, 66 km northeast of Baghdad. Two other soldiers were wounded in the attack, US Army Maj. Josslyn Aberle said.

At least 57 US soldiers have now been killed in guerrilla-style attacks, while another 60 have died in non-combat incidents since the White House declared major combat operations in Iraq over on May 1.

No casualty toll was released after six powerful explosions shook a US military base in Ramadi, 100 km west of Baghdad, late Monday as mysterious assailants fired on the compound.

An eyewitness, Faras Mustafa, 34, said that he saw smoke rising from the base after the blasts.

There was no immediate comment from the US army, but earlier Monday Col. Guy Shields, the coalition's top military spokesperson, said Ramadi base had come under repeated mortar attack the previous few nights.

The town is considered a stronghold of sympathizers of Saddam Hussein's regime, who hailed from the same Sunni Muslim community, now embattled in the post-war Iraq era as the country's Shiite majority asserts its will.

The Ramadi attack came after some 2,000 US troops launched a pre-dawn raid Monday in the two villages north of Baghdad where they suspected pro-Saddam Hussein guerrillas were hiding. *AFP*

Nato takes over command of Kabul peacekeeping

KABUL—The North Atlantic Treaty Organization began its first operation outside Europe in its 54-year history on Monday when it took command of peacekeepers in the Afghan capital.

At a ceremony in Kabul, German Defense Minister Peter Struck said Nato's job was to ensure Afghanistan did not become a safe haven for terrorism again.

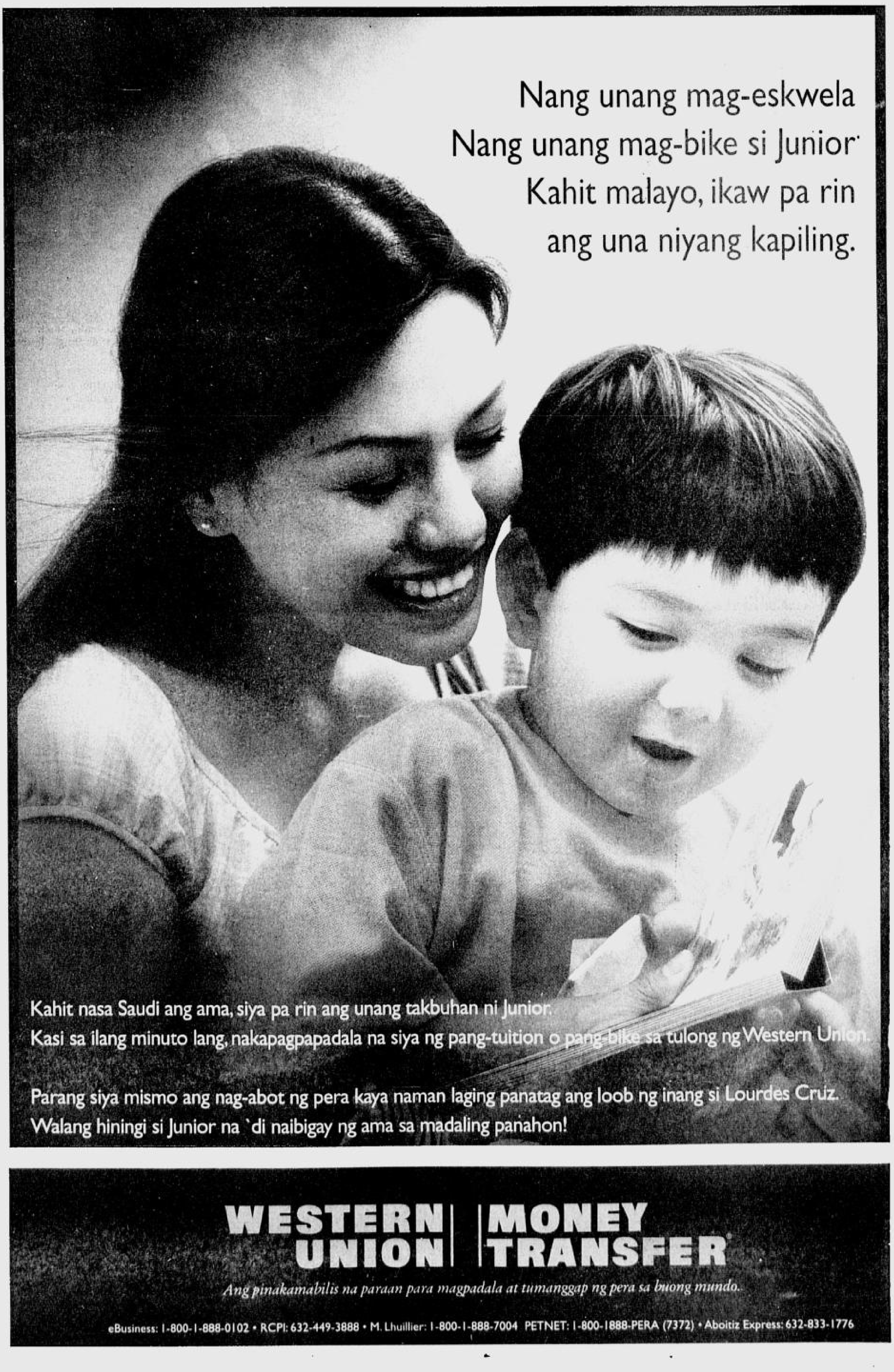
"There is still a lot to be done," he said. "Afghanistan must not lapse back into anarchy or chaos. Afghanistan must not again become the home of global terror as was the case under the rule of the Taliban."

Germany and the Netherlands had held joint command of the 5,000-strong International Security Assistance Force until the handover, which was attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Nato Supreme Allied Commander Europe General James Jones.

At the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Norbert van Heyst, outgoing commander of ISAF, transferred command to another German three-star general, Goetz Gliemeroth, from Nato command.

The open-ended command is a strategic departure from Nato's Cold War role of defending its immediate borders and officials say it stems from a post-Sept. 11 perception among its 19 members that the alliance needs to deploy where problems arise.

At a news conference after the ceremony, Jones called it "a signal moment in the history of the alliance." *Reuters*


Nang unang mag-eskwela
Nang unang mag-bike si Junior
Kahit malayo, ikaw pa rin
ang una niyang kapiling.

Kahit nasa Saudi ang ama, siya pa rin ang unang takbuhan ni Junior.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na siya ng pang-tuition o pang-bike sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang siya mismo ang nag-abot ng pera kaya naman laging panatag ang loob ng inang si Lourdes Cruz.
Walang hiningi si Junior na `di naibigay ng ama sa madaling panahon!

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Indonesia seeks 15 years for Bashir

JAKARTA—Indonesian prosecutors urged a court on Tuesday to sentence cleric Abu Bakar Bashir to 15 years in jail on charges including treason over his leadership of a militant Muslim group blamed for a string of terror attacks.

Scores of Bashir's supporters wearing Muslim skull-caps were silent as the demand was read. Earlier, they had defied a police order and cried "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as Bashir walked to his seat in the tightly guarded courtroom.

Prosecutors charged Bashir with treason for trying to overthrow the government using Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian network accused of carrying out the Bali blasts and now the prime suspect in a car bomb attack at a Jakarta hotel last week.

Bashir had faced life in jail. Key suspects on trial over the Bali nightclub bombings face the death penalty.

Bashir is also on trial for approving church bombings across the world's most populous Muslim nation in 2000 that killed 19 people and has been linked to an aborted plot to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri when she was vice president.

Wearing a gold embroidered skull-cap, a checked sarong, black jacket and white scarf around his neck, the 64-year-old cleric sat impassively during the hearing. He showed no signs of the ill health that has plagued him since being arrested last October.

"The defendant has been proven to have carried out acts of treason... We demand he be jailed for 15 years," chief prosecutor Hasan Madani told the court, guarded by 150 additional police.

The cleric denies the charges and insists that Jemaah Islamiyah—seen as the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network—does not exist. Bashir turns 65 on Sunday, Indonesia's anniversary of independence from Dutch colonial rule.

Police have linked the cleric to the Bali bombings, which killed 202 mainly foreign holidaymakers, but he has not been charged over the atrocity.

In the wake of last Tuesday's blast at the JW Marriott Hotel, Western governments have warned of more attacks in Indonesia.

A suicide bomber killed 11 people and wounded 150 when he drove a car loaded with explosives similar to those used in the Bali attacks into the US-run hotel.

A lawyer for Bashir, Mahendradatta, said earlier his client was mentally prepared for a heavy sentencing demand and had felt the Marriott bombing would affect the decision. Bashir also felt he was being tried by opinion rather than facts of law, he added.

In an interview with El Shinta radio before the trial began, Bashir blamed the Bali and Marriott attacks on the CIA.

Before the trial opened, a senior police official told Bashir's followers they would be ejected if they shouted "Allahu Akbar." They did anyway.

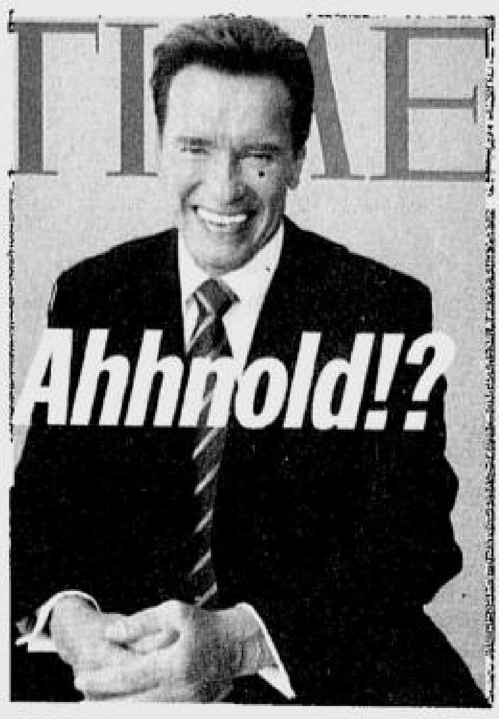
"You can say this in the mosque, not in the courtroom. Let the judge and prosecutors and the lawyers do their job," he said.

Court officials have said Bashir's verdict could come within a month. The first verdict in the trials of 38 suspects arrested over the Bali blasts was handed down last Thursday, with a court sentencing "smiling bomber" Amrozi to death by firing squad.

Bashir's trial and those in Bali have been seen as a test of Indonesia's determination to combat Islamic radicalism.

A number of witnesses have told the court Bashir heads Jemaah Islamiyah, accused of wanting an Islamic state in the region.

A senior Malaysian member of Jemaah Islamiah testified on June 26 that Bashir had approved the church bomb attacks and had also called a meeting to plan Megawati's assassination. *Reuters*



ACTOR Arnold Schwarzenegger, Republican candidate for governor of California in the Oct. 7 recall election, is featured on the cover of the Aug. 18 issue of Time magazine. REUTERS

Schwarzenegger grabs early lead in race

LOS ANGELES—Action icon Arnold Schwarzenegger took an early lead in the race to be California's next governor Monday, but came under fire for failing to come up with detailed solutions for the state's woes.

An opinion poll gave the action star 42 percent of the vote in the race to replace Gov. Gray Davis, who faces an Oct. 7 recall election in which voters will also choose a possible replacement.

"Have big dreams, that was my secret," he told a group of youngsters at an event for his after-school program for underprivileged children at a New York college as his latest dream appeared on-course.

The moderate Republican is the clear frontrunner among 193 candidates—of which 95 have been certified so far—who registered to run in most populous and wealthiest US state.

Seventy-three percent of the 801 voters asked in the Gallup poll for CNN and USA Today said Schwarzenegger's campaign should be taken seriously. The poll had a margin of error of four percentage points.

Schwarzenegger was followed by the incumbent lieutenant governor, Cruz Bustamante, who scored 22 percent and millionaire Republican businessman Bill Simon who garnered 13 percent of the vote.

An overwhelming majority of 64 percent of those polled said Davis should be removed from office.

But Davis slammed the campaign against him, condemning it as a very costly "insult to the eight million people who went to the polls last November and made a decision that I should be governor." *AFP*

US forces kill 2 Pakistan border guards in clash

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—Pakistan said US forces killed two of its soldiers near the Afghan border on Monday, and the US military said it was investigating what it called an unfortunate and unintended clash.

The Pakistani military's public relations department said a strong protest had been lodged with US authorities about the incident in which one Pakistani soldier was also wounded.

It said in a statement US forces fired on the Pakistani patrol at a border post in the tribal Waziristan region, some 260 km southwest of the capital Islamabad.

A senior Pakistani official said the US forces mistook the Pakistani patrol for al-Qaida or Taliban fighters.

"It was due to some misunderstanding," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The shooting was the first such reported incident involving US troops operating in Afghanistan.

Pakistani forces and Afghan troops, assisted by a US-led coalition, patrol their own sides of a border which runs along a remote tribal belt where al-Qaida fighters and remnants of Afghanistan's ousted Taliban government are believed to be hiding.

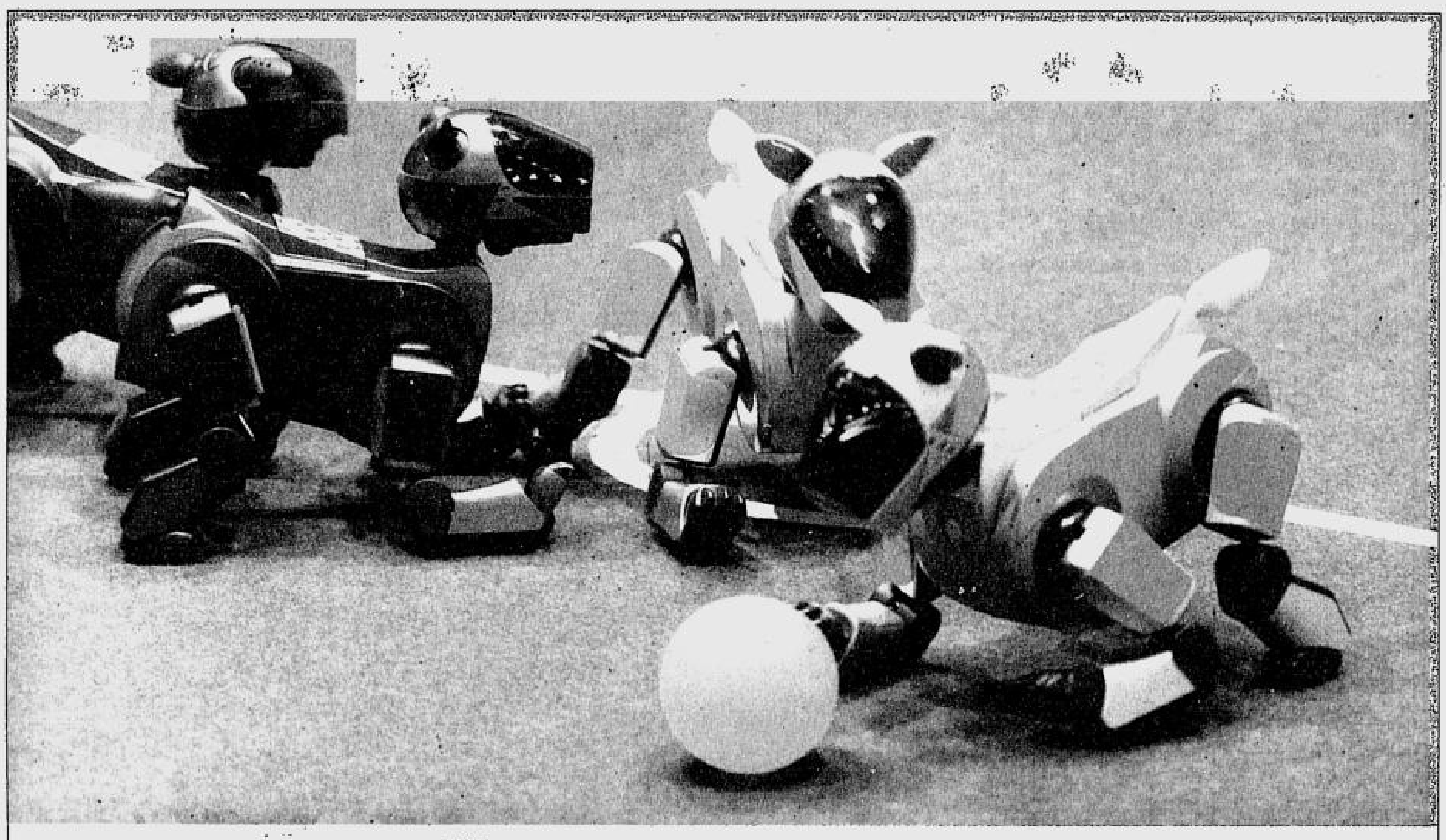
US Central Command said coalition forces on patrol near Orgun in Afghanistan's Paktika province were fired on by several individuals.

"Coalition close air support was called in and responded to the enemy forces that were identified and fleeing towards the Pakistani border," it said in a statement.

"The incident resulted in the unfortunate and unintended engagement of Pakistani security forces in the area. Initial reports indicate that two persons died and one was wounded as a result... The incident is currently under investigation."

Pakistan was the main supporter of Afghanistan's former Taliban government until the Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks on the United States in 2001 when it chose to back US efforts to drive the Islamic fundamentalists from power.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are trying to settle a row over the poorly defined 2,450 km border, with the United States mediating. *Reuters*



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Peres 'healthy as an ox' on 80th birthday

JERUSALEM—Nobel laureate Shimon Peres, the peace visionary and perennial candidate to lead Israel, turns 80 this week, and on Monday said a physical exam found him "healthy as an ox."

PERES

Peres, who has run for prime minister five times but never won outright, was picked as temporary head of the opposition Labor Party this year after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hardline Likud handed Labor its worst-ever election defeat in January.

Peres served three times as prime minister but was never elected to the post. Twice he succeeded Yitzhak Rabin in midterm, and once he become premier in a rotation arrangement with a rival after an election ended in a parliamentary deadlock.

Often eulogized as finished after election defeats, Peres has re-emerged again and again, putting forward new ideas. His latest is declaring Jerusalem the "capital of the world," a form of internationalization to bypass conflicting Israeli and Palestinian claims to the city. *AP*

Palestinian suicide bombings shatter calm

ROSH HA'AYIN, Israel—Back-to-back suicide bombings in Israel and the West Bank killed two people and wounded several others on Tuesday, shattering a period of calm ushered in by a truce backing a new peace plan.

The first explosion happened in a grocery store in the central Israeli town of Rosh Ha'ayin. At least one person was killed as well as the suicide bomber and six were hurt.

Less than an hour later, a suicide bomber killed himself and one other person near the major Jewish settlement of Ariel in the West Bank. Several others were hurt.

The explosions deepened doubts about prospects for peace under a US-backed "road map," already bogged down by mutual recriminations over alleged non-compliance with its terms.

The Rosh Ha'ayin attack was the second suicide bombing since the ceasefire was declared by Palestinian militant group leaders on June 29.

A body tentatively identified as the bomber was found at the scene.

The last suicide bombing was on July 7 when a woman was killed and her home destroyed in Yabetz, north of Tel Aviv.

Rosh Ha'ayin is 10 km east of Tel Aviv near the open boundary with the West Bank, from which many suicide bombers have come in a 34-month-old uprising for statehood.

"The casualties all have been taken away. It was a relatively small bomb," Rosh Ha'ayin's mayor told Israel Army radio. Ambulances rushed to the scene with sirens wailing as police cordoned off the area.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for either explosion. They followed a vow of revenge from militant group Hamas after Israeli troops killed two Hamas members in a raid in the West Bank city of Nablus late last week.

Some localized splinter groups within the main militant factions, mainly offshoots of the Fatah movement of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, rejected the three-month ceasefire pact and have continued sporadic violence.

The Palestinian Authority immediately condemned the grocery store attack, but cabinet member Yasser Abed Rabbo said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had been "practicing all forms of provocations."

The last major suicide attack was on June 11 when a suicide bomber blew up a bus near an open air market in central Jerusalem's Jaffa Road killing 17 people and injuring scores.

Tension in the region had already resurged over the weekend when Lebanon's Hezbollah Shiite Muslim guerrillas shelled a northern Israeli border region, killing a teenager and prompting Israel to threaten Syria, a backer of Hezbollah.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Israel held Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon, and Hizbollah patron Iran responsible for the group's operations. Israel has accused Hizbollah, Syria and Iran of backing Palestinian militants.

Israeli warplanes bombed an anti-aircraft battery on the edge of a south Lebanon village on Sunday in retaliation for the border shelling. Israeli warplanes later flew over Beirut. *Reuters*

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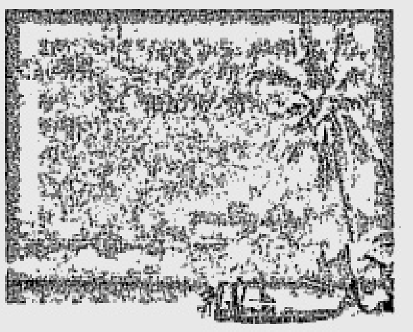

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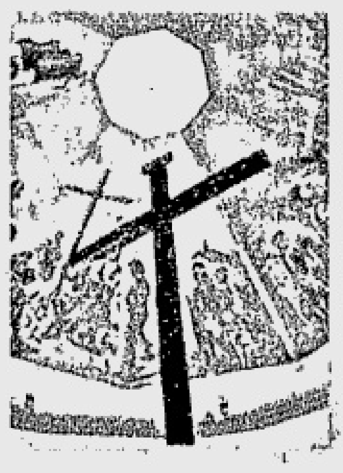

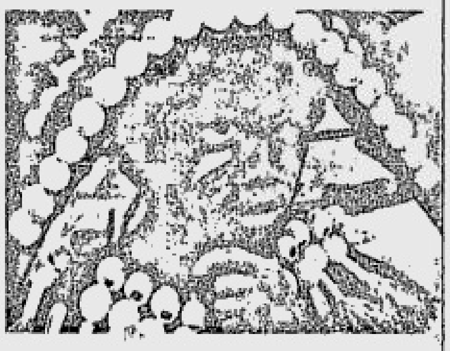

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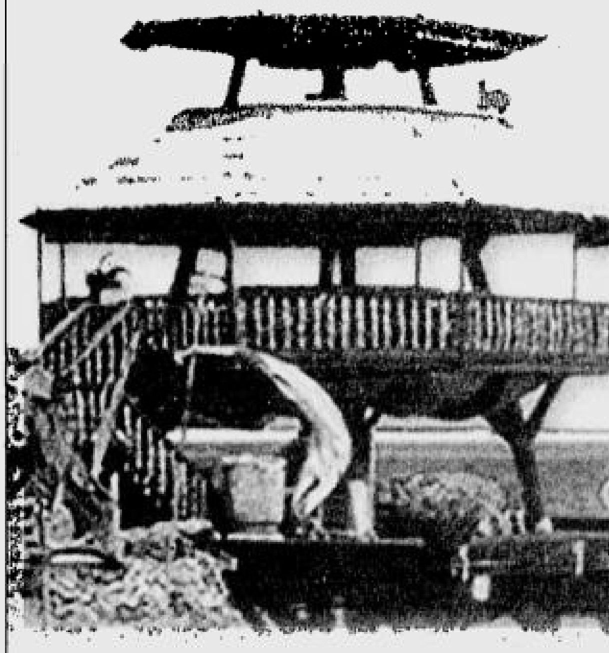

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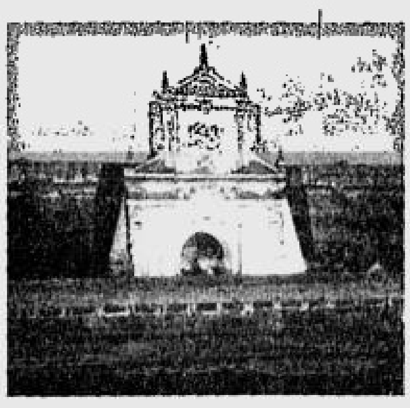

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Al-Ghozi's explosives 'supplier' nabbed

By Kathy I. Navarro and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Authorities has arrested the businessman who allegedly supplied the explosives used by suspected terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi in the 2000 Rizal day bombings in Metro Manila.

Cebu City police on Monday night arrested Antonio Reyes, 53, in Clarin, Bohol where he had reportedly been hiding.

He was brought yesterday to Camp Sergio Osmeña, the police headquarters in Central Visayas, where he was presented to the media.

Reyes, of Talisay City, Cebu, denied involvement with Al-Ghozi. He told reporters that he was just an "ordinary fisherman," and not involved in the sale and manufacture of explosives as alleged by the police.

He was detained at the PRO-7's Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division where he was undergoing tactical interrogation.

Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo, Cebu City police director, said the arrest was made on the strength of the warrant issued by Judge Ireneo Lee Gako Jr. of the Cebu Regional Trial Court in 2002 where Reyes is facing charges of sale or possession of explosives. The Department of Justice had recommended P200,000-bail for Reyes' temporary liberty.

Reyes told reporters that he met a certain Alex at the fishport in Barangay Pasil in 2000. He said Alex later went to his house in Talisay to ask where he could buy ammonium nitrate, a prime component in the manufacture of explosives.

But Reyes claimed that he told Alex that he could not help him because he did not know where to find the chemicals.

Alex later turned out to be Cusain Ramos alias Abu Ali, a resident of Lapulapu City who acted as a conduit between Reyes and Al-Ghozi in the sale of ammonium nitrate.

Ramos claimed in his affidavit that he met Al-Ghozi in Cebu in November 2000 where he was ordered to buy five tons of ammonium nitrate. He immediately contacted Reyes whom he knew was selling these chemicals. But Reyes, he said, could only produce more than one ton, which he paid for P80,000.

Bugkalot folk defy DENR, warn of bloodshed over seized narra

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Armed with bolos and guns, members of the Bugkalot tribe in Alfonso Castañeda town on Thursday repulsed a team of environment and police personnel who were retrieving illegally cut narra lumber seized from the area, officials said on Monday.

Lawyer Adolfo Arizala, legal officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said about 30 Bugkalot men converged and surrounded 20 DENR personnel and four policemen as they were about to load the confiscated lumber in their trucks. The lumber was stacked at a furniture shop in Barangay Pelaway.

"As we were explaining to (village chair) Putado Gabogen the purpose of the seizure, the people surrounded us and behaved belligerently. They were threatening to resort to use force if we proceeded with the seizure," Arizala said.

"They said they would rather die than allow the retrieval of the (narra lumber) which, according to them, is their only source of income for their families," Arizala said in his report to Antonio Principe, DENR Cagayan Valley director.

"Some were carrying long bolos and side arms (pistols), while others were wearing overcoats to conceal long firearms," he added.

The DENR was earlier ordered by the courts to deliver about 24,000 board feet of narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), that forest rangers confiscated from four furniture shops in the area on July 18.

A search and seizure ordered by Judge Jose Godofredo Naui yielded 54 cubic meters of narra lumber worth P4 million from shops allegedly owned by traders from Quirino.

Last month, the DENR launched a crackdown on the reported massive cutting of trees, especially of narra, from the lower Casecnan Watershed, the forest reserve of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

Roberto Apigo, provincial environment officer, said the confiscated lumber needed to be brought to the regional trial court as evidence in the filing of illegal logging cases against six suspects.

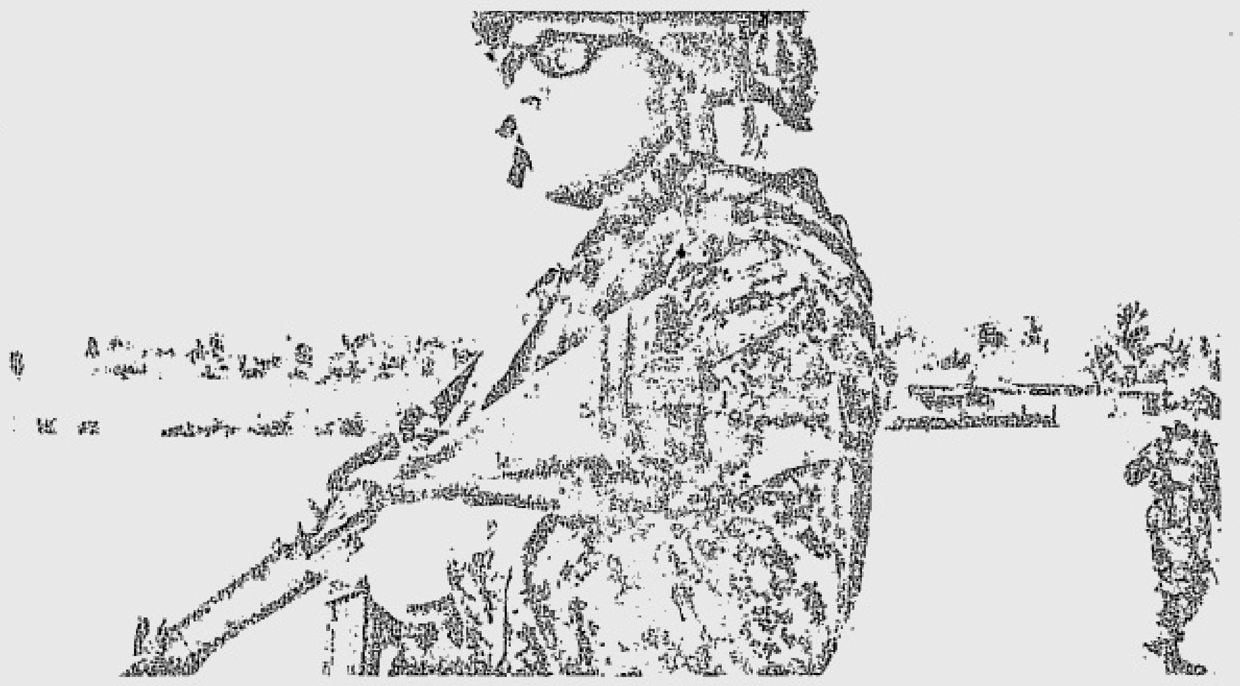
He said they were looking into the alleged involvement of officials of the Bugkalot Ancestral Land Domain of Alfonso Castañeda (Baldaac), a people's organization that the DENR allowed to use a limited volume of narra cut during the construction of the CMIPP.

Arizala said the team chose to leave the lumber in the village to prevent any confrontation. They were, however, able to transport only about 1,900 board feet, which they earlier stored at the 2nd provincial police mobile group based in the village.

When contacted for comment, Eric Pasigian, Baldaac chair, neither confirmed nor denied Thursday's incident. Instead, he questioned the issuance of the seizure order, saying, "it was the fruit of a poisonous tree." He did not elaborate.

"We could not blame our tribe members if they might have behaved that way especially that they were being harassed," Pasigian said of the villagers' confrontation with the DENR and police team on Thursday.

"Many of us are starving nowadays. We just hope the government would listen to our plea because we no longer want to go back to our old practices," he said in Filipino. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



TRAINING MODE
US soldiers guard the remote village of San Roque in Zamboanga City. US experts are training Filipino soldiers in combatting terrorism in the region.

Suspected NPA rebels burn bus in Capiz

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Suspected communist rebels on Monday burned a passenger bus in an interior village of Cuartero town, Capiz after its owner failed to pay revolutionary taxes.

Supt. Eduardo Ibon, police chief of Cuartero, said about 13 alleged members of the New People's Army torched the Ceres bus owned by Vallacar Transit in Sitio Bito-on, about 200 meters away from the national highway in Cuartero.

None of the 34 bus passengers were hurt. The bus came from Caticlan in Malay, Aklan and was bound for Iloilo City. Ibon said the Cuartero police immediately conducted hot pursuit operation against the rebels after the company representative reported the incident. Bus driver Jummy Roces told the police that three armed men boarded the bus in Dumalag, Capiz.

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Lawyer linked to bribery in Javier murder case

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—A private lawyer allegedly gave money to a witness in exchange for testifying for the prosecution in the murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier 17 years ago.

Eduardo Aguillon Sr. claimed that an "Attorney Ongkiko" gave him P700 after he agreed to sign a three-page affidavit shortly after Javier was killed on Feb. 11, 1986.

Former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, one of the accused, told the INQUIRER that Aguillon was referring to lawyer Mario Ongkiko whom he said acted as one of the private prosecutors during the preliminary investigation of the case.

Aguillon made the allegation during the hearings held on Monday and yesterday before the sala of Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12.

Aguillon, 64, said he talked with Ongkiko at the house of lawyer Rogelio Javier, uncle of Evelio, where he was made to sign an affidavit, which he said he did not even bother to read.

Ongkiko was in a hearing when the INQUIRER contacted him for comment. But he said he does not know Aguillon and has never bribed anybody in all his years as a lawyer. But he admitted that he initially prosecuted the Javier murder case.

In the affidavit, Aguillon said he saw Pacificador's son Rodolfo and co-accused former Philippine Constabulary Capt. John Paloy alighting from a vehicle filled with heavily armed men near the San Jose public plaza shortly after he heard bursts of gunfire during the time Evelio was gunned down.

He testified in the trial of the first batch of accused before Pacificador and several other accused were arraigned.

Aguillon said he accepted the offer because he had no job at that time and had to support nine children.

Provincial prosecutor Napoleon Abierra denied the allegations.

He said Ongkiko was only involved in the investigation of the civil case before the criminal charges were filed against the accused.

Aguillon was one of three witnesses presented by the defense in its continued attempt to demolish the testimony of prosecution witnesses.

Pacificador said they wanted to show that the testimonies of the prosecution were "fabricated" and were made in exchange for money or other favors.

Ongkiko was the lawyer of Hubert Webb.

ROUNDUP

3 drown in beach

NARVACAN, Ilocos Sur—Three persons drowned in a beach in Barangay Bulanos on Saturday. Police identified the victims as Medel Fines, 31; Shiela Valdez, 22; and Mary Jane Villa, 19, all of this town. Reports said Valdez and Villa went swimming and were swept by a strong current. Fines, who was fishing near the shore, tried to rescue the two women but was also swept by the current. Villa was rescued 30 minutes after the incident but died while being taken to the Central Ilocos Sur District Hospital. Valdez's body was recovered at about 3 p.m. Saturday near the shores of Barangay Sulvec. Police have yet to recover Fines' body. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Hostage-taker slain

MARILAO, Bulacan—Police shot and killed a man who held hostage his employer's two sons at their house in Barangay Loma de Gato early Friday. Edmund Llanes, 56, and a native of Cauayan, Ilocos Sur, succumbed to multiple bullet wounds in the body. Reports showed that Llanes, armed with a kitchen knife, barged into the room of John Christian Infante, 14, and his brother John Clarence, 13, at about 1:30 a.m. Friday. Llanes held hostage the Infante brothers until responding policemen arrived an hour later. For four hours, policemen negotiated with Llanes to surrender his weapon and release the two boys. The Infante brothers sustained stab wounds when they tried to escape from Llanes. When Llanes threatened to kill his hostages, policemen shot him, killing him instantly.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Quezon awardees

LUCENA CITY—An environmental protection advocate leads this year's awardees of "Quezon Medalya ng Karangalán," which is conferred annually to 10 citizens of Quezon province who have excelled in their respective fields of expertise or have rendered invaluable public service. The awardees are Proceso Alcala, environmental protection; Euclides Abcede, human rights; Rafael Lagos, judiciary; Ronald Allarey, foreign service; Ruben Tan, aquaculture; Agnes Medenilla, medical technology; Victor Emmanuel Carmelo Nadera, literature; Benjamin Salvosa, coconut industry promotion; Martin Ilao, physical organic chemistry; and Jose Mario Bunag, law practice. Special awards will also be given to Ye Fei Sixto Yap of Xiamen, Fujian, People's Republic of China; Antonio Constantino, real estate development; and Jose Eleazar educational management. Quezon Gov. Wilfredo Enverga will lead the awarding ceremony at the Quezon Convention Center on Aug. 19, during the 125th birth anniversary of former President Manuel Quezon *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang members nabbed

MLANG, North Cotabato—Alert civilians and policemen on Monday busted a faction of the dreaded Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang while the group was conducting surveillance on a possible target.

Supt. Melchor Loyola, provincial police chief, said policemen have been on guard against a band of suspected kidnappers planning to strike in the province this month.

"We hit them even before they could strike, a result of civilian-police coordination and timely reporting," Loyola told the Church-run radio dxND in Kidapawan City.

Insp. Rudy Labio, Mlang police chief, said the suspects were waiting for an opportune time to strike when alert civilians tipped off police at about 4 p.m.

Responding lawmen collared two suspects suspiciously fixing an old Toyota crown car along the national highway, just in front of a dentist's residence.

When accosted, the two suspects, Bague Sinapang of Buluan, Maguindanao and Reynaldo Arending of Pikit, Cotabato, claimed they were fixing their car.

Suspicious of their looks and acts, a policeman checked on the vehicle which turned out to be in running condition and its engine having no trouble whatsoever. Seized from them were an unlicensed .45 caliber pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun.

"They admitted to lawmen that they had three more companions," Labio said.

The three other suspects, Usman Kanakan of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, Uyak Idsla of Pikit, North Cotabato and Bensar Adama of SK Pendatun, Maguindanao, admitted that they were part of the planned kidnapping of a dentist.

They did not resist arrest and even handed over two unlicensed .45 caliber pistols.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol lauded the police and the civilians who helped neutralize the group even before they could strike.

Police said the five suspects admitted they belonged to a group under Tahir Alonto, a leader of the Pentagon kidnap gang. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

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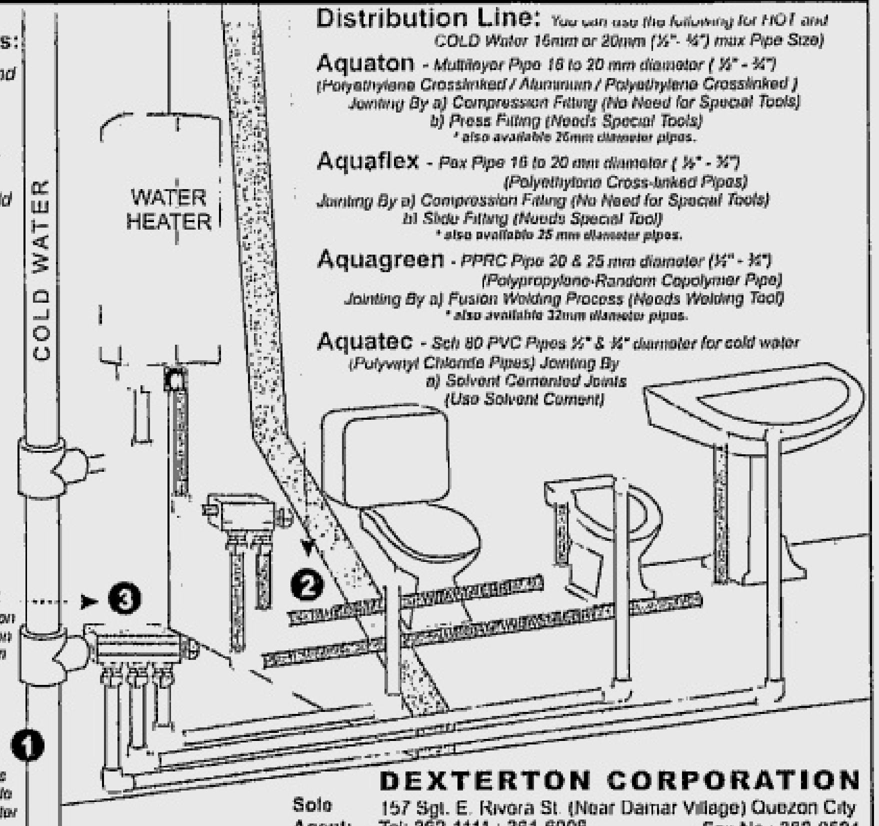

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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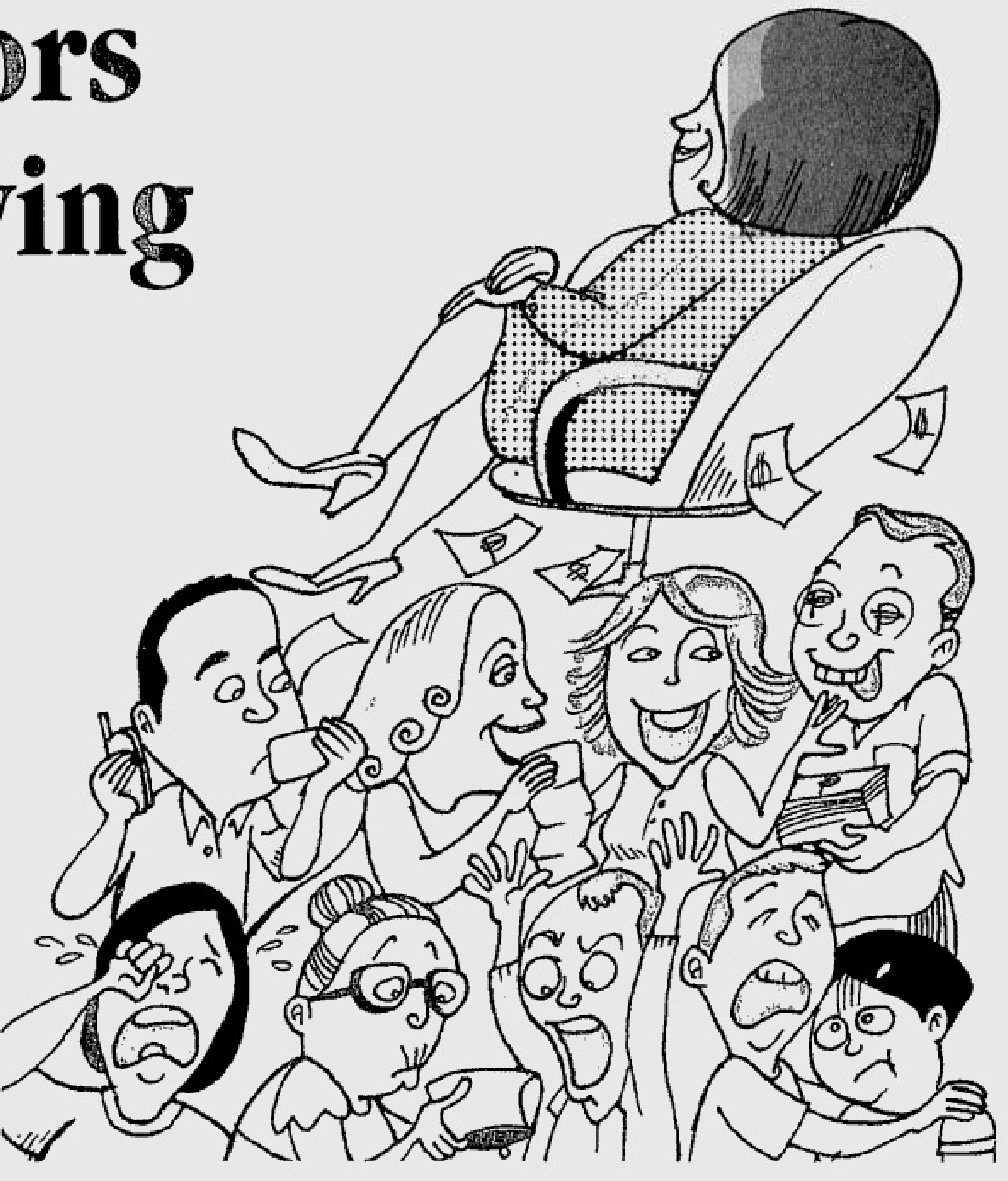
How to win investors and leave them crying



By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

AFTER losing millions of pesos to a cell card networking firm, which just closed after its owner ran away, many investors have learned their lessons, swearing they won't be fooled again.

"Many of us cried, but we learned our lessons no matter how costly," said an investor. "Unfortunately, others still believe that the owner will return because she promised business will resume starting Aug. 1 after a three-month lull."

Still many of them admire the woman behind Mariposa Prepaid Cards Marketing, who was able to lure more than 1,200 (not 800 as earlier reported) investors, most of them from Baguio, Benguet and Mt. Province.

"Some people advise us that we must be wary about fly-by-night companies whose promises of returns of investment are too good to be true, but she (Mariposa owner) was good and true until she ran away," said another investor, who, together with some family members, lost P3.5 million to Mariposa.

The P3.5 million came from retirement pay and benefits, capital for a buy-and-sell family business, and sale of a house in Manila.

Other investors loaned from micro-financing institutions, cooperatives, banks, friends and relatives. Others invested their hard-earned money.

The woman, who ran away with the investors' money last week of June, was known as Jayne Marquez. Given a business permit by the Baguio City Hall on Oct. 14 last year, Marquez's registered line of business was "marketing/networking for prepaid cards."

Marquez's business was also registered with the Department of Trade and Industry-Benguet office on Aug. 23, 2002. The DTI certificate of business name registration is valid until Aug. 23, 2007.

The business permit, the DTI certificate, and a fire safety inspection certificate were all posted on the walls of the Mariposa office at 115 Naguilian Road in Baguio.

But all these business documents, plus a shelf of imported books on accounting, business management, pyramiding and networking displayed in Marquez's office, investors found out too late, were "all part of the props."

With these props and her special talent of earning the sympathy of people, Marquez enticed investors to put in more than P208 million in Mariposa.

Who is Jayne Marquez?

Investors described Marquez as a person with "a strong charisma," which could draw people to her.

The late 30 or early 40-something woman would also tell a story about her life that "could really break your heart," said an investor.

"You know, I have a mother's heart because I was orphaned early, and as the eldest, I became the mother to my younger siblings," Marquez would tell her investors. "Here in Mariposa, you (investors) are my family, and I'm like your mother."

"Touched by her story, we believed her," said an investor.

To also show her motherly concern and charitable and philanthropic spirit, Marquez also devised a lending service scheme, which, she said, Mariposa investors could avail themselves of for the tuition of their children.

Those who borrowed the minimum P20,000 loan ploughed back the money to Mariposa to add to their investments because of the expected high returns.

Looking back, investors realized too late that Marquez's charisma, her heart-breaking story and her supposed motherly and charitable spirit were all a hoax and "also part of the props."

After Marquez disappeared, some investors checked on her background and found out that her real name was Pamela Mayate, who hails from Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Nicknamed Tweety and Mel, she had assumed other names such as Pamela Quiambao and Pamela Marimla.

Investors also found that the woman, in 1997, had engaged in buying and selling mobile phones also through networking. Registered as CPM Sales, her former company had its business address at 2177 Sto. Rosario St. in Angeles City. CPM stood for Christopher-Pamela Mayate.

After reportedly swindling her investors in Angeles City, who filed estafa cases against her, Mayate went into hiding.

She later surfaced in Baguio in 1998, assuming the name of Jayne P. Marquez. She first engaged in selling insurance before going into the cell-card networking scheme business.

"Like other businesses, our buy-and-sell business was on a slump, so when Mariposa offered triple returns of investment, we grabbed the opportunity," said an investor.

Modus operandi

As telecommunication firms set up cell sites as far as Buguias, Benguet; Sagada and Bontoc, Mt. Province; Banaue, Ifugao; and Tabuk, Kalinga, cell cards also have become more salable than hamburger, giving a fertile ground for the Mariposa scheme.

Mariposa's modus operandi works through networking.

For every P1,500 an investor puts into the company plus two recruits, each of whom must also invest P1,500, the investor is entitled to 10 cell cards worth P300 in 10 weeks.

An investor who maintains two "downlines," each of whom must have two recruits, is entitled to 48 cell cards a year.

But Marquez notified investors that after end-April, the 48 cards a year would be reduced to 38 cards.

Since recruiting "downlines" was tedious, many investors invested their own money.

"We wanted to beat the April 30 deadline so many of us put in more money that month," said an investor. "We learned that April was the highest peak of investments for Mariposa."

Marquez had another catch. During a meeting with investors in early June, she said she needed P265 million for "exclusive brokering privileges" for cell cards from telecommunication firms.

HOW/A17

'Bakle': A time for Ifugao merrymaking and thanksgiving

By Ben Moses Ebreo
Kiangan, Ifugao

THE CHEERING echoed through the rice terraces on Sunday as young and old Ifugaos took turns pounding the *ipugo* rice from one house to another in Barangay Julongan in Kiangan, Ifugao, to thank the gods for their harvests.

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The activity was also held to bring back their traditional agricultural practices to restore the condition of the terraces.

Rice wine or *baya* was served endlessly to guests, visitors and villagers, along with native rice cakes called *binakle*. The *binakle*, which is wrapped either with banana or rattan leaves, is similar to the Ilocanos' and Tagalogs' *suman*.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

Ifugao men in g-strings used a mortar made of rock and a wooden pestle to pound the *ipugo* rice. With the men pounding with synchronized rhythm, a part of the mortar was broken before lunchtime.

"Destroying the pestle and the mortar was part of the occasion, for it to be considered successful and festive. It was nonsense if we did not destroy them," said Alfredo Balaho, 72.

The feast called *bakle* is a traditional social activity of the Ifugao after harvest to thank the deities of the *nundaul* or underworld for a good rice harvest.

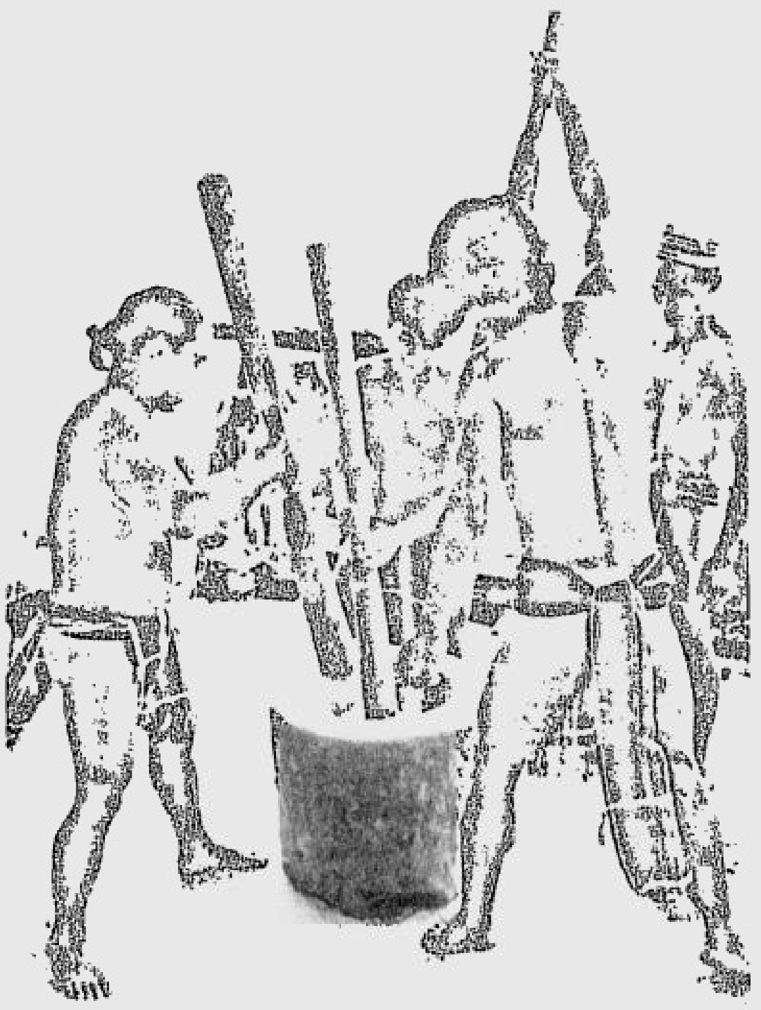
Wooden idols

According to the *mumbaki* (native priests), the *nundaul* is represented by wooden idols or granary deities.

The 10th traditional practice under their 12-phase agricultural calendar, the *bakle* seeks to gather villagers for merrymaking, social interaction and festivity after the *binakle* has been pounded, kneaded, wrapped and cooked.

At lunchtime, native chickens and pork meat were served to villagers, including guests.

Lito Dulinayan, project coordinator of the Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (IRTCHO), said a week-long training was conducted in Ifugao last month to enable farmers and local officials to come up with a conservation and management plan for the rice terraces.



IFUGAO men pound the "ipugo" rice for sharing among the villagers in Barangay Julongan, Kiangan, Ifugao during the "bakle" or thanksgiving to their gods for the rice terraces' bountiful harvest. BEN MOSES EBREO

The plan will be submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) for possible assistance.

"The concentration aspects of this management plan are grouped into socioeconomic (zoning and land-use component), eco-tourism plans and indigenous knowledge," Dulinayan said.

'Bulul'

Citing Ifugao mythology, Manuel Dulawan, IRTCHO consultant on Ifugao culture, said the underworld realm was once visited by immortal Ifugao, who noticed the people's progress as the rice crops were plentiful and animals and pigs were abundant.

"So they asked, what could be the reason for all of these?" Dulawan asked. He said the inhabitants responded by pointing to the offering of a sacrifice to their *bulul* or rice god.

"There was only one *bulul* in *pugaw* (earthworld) then," he said.

The Ifugao immortals then returned to their world and performed the *bulul* rites through the *bakle* as a way of thanksgiving. As the myth goes, the Ifugao people became progressive.

But at the height of their progress, they forgot to offer sacrifice to their *bulul* since they claimed that they could be progressive without performing the rites.

Dulawan said the *bulul*, after hearing this, jumped into the river and was carried by the current to another village. The *bulul* transferred from one village to another once the inhabitants were corrupted by their wealth and bountiful harvests.

The *bulul* returned to the village where it was eventually carried to the Padpad River, the confluence of the Ifugao River in Barangay Ibulao in Lamut town and the Magat River in Nueva Vizcaya.

The *bulul* rested on a *balete* tree. With the *bulul*'s presence, the *balete* turned into a glowing tree. Its green and robust branches faced Nueva Vizcaya, while the yellowish and stunted branches faced Ifugao.

More progressive

"It is a symbolic fact that the Ifugao in Nueva Vizcaya are more progressive than those who are in the province," Dulawan said.

He said those in Barangay Camandag in Asipulo town went to Lamut after learning about the incident, and cut a branch of the. *balete* tree. They brought the branch to their village.

"Each family is supposed to have a *bulul* or rice god. The rites are expensive but when you neglect to offer sacrifice to the gods, illnesses among members of your family may occur," Dulawan said.

He said the *bakle* has been transformed into a venue where the Ifugao people of all ages can interact. "It has become a social activity where even chants and prayers are also offered," he said.

How to win investors and leave them crying

From page A16

She told investors that she had a contract with Filipinas Oil Management Corp. to apply for these exclusive brokering privileges with telecommunication firms.

With P208 million which, she claimed, was already in her bank account, Mayate said she would have to raise P57 million only.

Impressed with the bulk of money already with Marquez, many investors, who had already poured millions of pesos into Mariposa, offered to help raise the shortfall.

Some were willing to mortgage their property or to borrow from banks with their property, which included houses and lots and cars, as collateral.

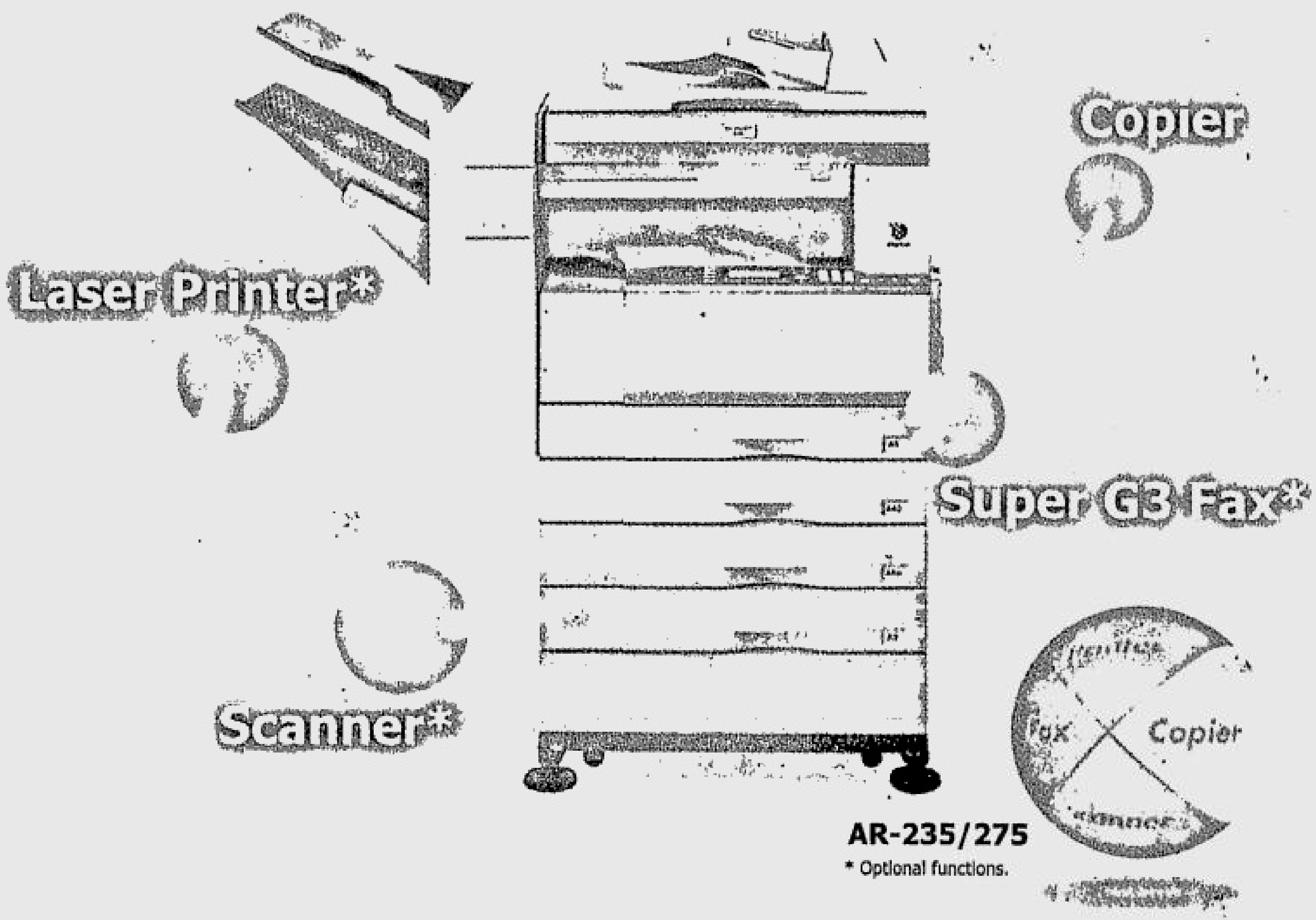
But as a guarantee, some investors put forward one condition: that Marquez must produce first a certificate of bank deposit. She failed to do so and in a few days, she disappeared.

Smarting from a costly lesson, many investors blamed themselves for being gullible to a scheme, which feeds on the strong human tendency for greed.

"Yes, we were part to blame because we were either so naive or so greedy that we fell into a scheme that capitalizes on human greed," said an investor. "But we hope other people won't fall into the same trap."

As they mull over legal actions, which they hope can help them recover their lost investments, many of Mariposa's investors are now advising people to investigate first before investing their money in whatever venture.

"The problem was we invested first before we investigated," said an investor. "The lesson is that it should have been the other way around."



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3 women of Edsa I, II, III meet in hotel in Manila

From page A1

Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, smiled and shook hands during the presentation of the East Asia Peace Award to former President Corazon Aquino.

And in her acceptance speech, Aquino lauded Ms Macapagal for exhausting all peaceful efforts before resorting to force in putting down the coup attempt on July 27.

The first meeting between Ms Macapagal and the former first lady after that fateful Sunday turned out to be civil despite the political and personal animosity that has simmered between them since President Joseph Estrada's term was cut short in 2001. Their relationship was strained further when government officials linked the Estradas to the financing and logistics of the junior officers that attempted last month's power grab.

The President had earlier turned down the invitation to be guest of honor at the presentation of the first Special Peace Award to the Edsa I heroine, reportedly after getting word that the affair was organized by the wife of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and that Senator Estrada was to be one of the guests.

Aquino spokesperson Deedee Sytangco was reportedly in Malacañang Monday morning to request that the East Asia Peace Award ceremony be included in Ms Macapagal's activities, to no avail.

According to the President's schedule for Monday, her last official affair was the centennial anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines at 7 p.m. in the newly built Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

Organizers were surprised when, after her engagement with the business groups, the President walked toward the Maynila ballroom where the awarding ceremony was being held, and stayed there for almost an hour.

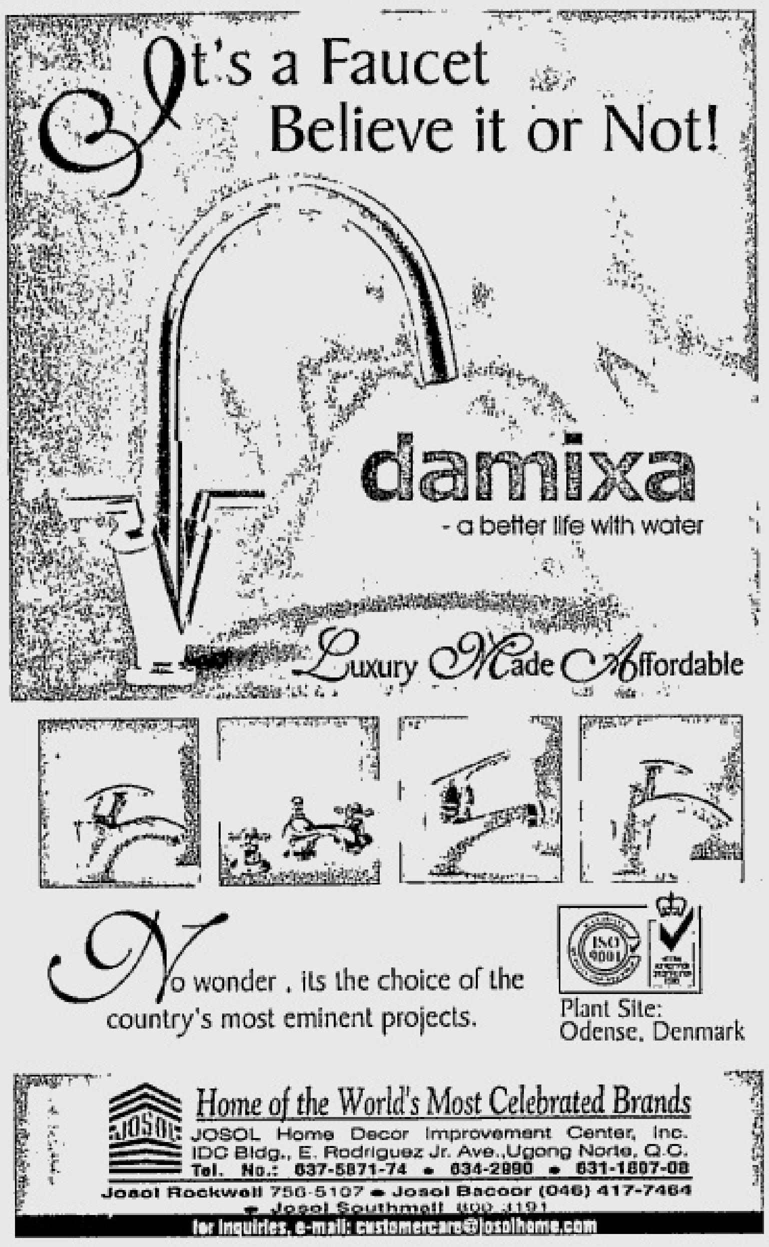
Midway in the program, Ms Macapagal looked Senator Estrada's way and nodded to acknowledge the latter's presence.

When later the program host announced that Ms Macapagal was leaving the ballroom, Senator Estrada, who was sitting directly behind the table of the President, Aquino and Senator Pimentel—immediately rose and joined the ovation.

The audience, mostly composed of members of the Millennium Women for Peace and Development, directed its intense attention to the middle of the ballroom where the President was expected to pass the senator's table on her way out.

After pressing hands with several women leaders along the way, the President moved closer to the senator's chair.

At the moment of truth, each woman nodded to the other and shook hands.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Erap on Jerika's school in UK: We can afford it

From page A1

to complete her "A level" of schooling, equivalent to fourth year high school here. But in a press conference the other day, Jerika said she was rethinking her plans following the filing of rebellion charges against her mother in connection with the failed July 27 mutiny.

Cobham Hall is one of Britain's leading girls' schools. It has only about 200 pupils and accepts students between 11 and 18 years old.

According to the website of the Independent Schools of the British Isles (ISBI), Cobham Hall charges a maximum of £18,420 (P1.6 million) a year for full boarders.

But Estrada said Jerika's tuition did not reach P1.6 million because she was staying with Enriquez's *kumare* (close friend), a certain Mrs. Young who is married to a "millionaire Chinese jeweler."

"It's cheap; she's just in high school," Estrada added.

He said Mrs. Young had a child studying in the same school, "so we took advantage of the opportunity to have Jerika live with them."

That arrangement would make Jerika a day pupil.

According to the ISBI website, day pupils are charged a minimum of £10,290 (approximately P895,000) up to a maximum of £12,660 (P1.1 million) a year.

A weekly boarder is charged a maximum of £18,420 (P1.6 million).

Jerika's brothers—Juan Emilio Ejercito, 13, and Jacob Jose Ejercito, 7—study at Xavier School in San Juan.

Estrada refused to provide more details into his children's schooling, and cut short the interview saying: "*Pati 'yon ba hahalukayin nyo pa?* (Do you still have to delve into that)."

He asked the INQUIRER not to pursue the issue anymore, considering that the country was already facing so many problems.

"Have pity on my child. Do you not spare anyone? As it is, I am already under intense media glare, now it is Laarni. Do you have to drag my daughter in?" Estrada said. "Please leave my children alone."

"If I knew this would happen, I would not have allowed Laarni to expose herself to the press. I want them to live private lives as much as possible," he said.

Mom doesn't want to talk

Enriquez had initially agreed to talk to the INQUIRER yesterday, but decided against it when told that Jerika's schooling would be the topic. She instead assigned her lawyer former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, to talk on the matter.

"I'm sorry, she cannot be a party to something that will destroy her daughter's right to privacy," Rodriguez said, adding that the issue raised on Jerika's expensive education was an attack against the Estradas that was "below the belt."

He said the issue was "too personal" and not related to the rebellion charges, the filing of which had prompted Enriquez to break her long self-imposed silence and talk to the media.

"Give her a break. (Jerika) is enjoying peace there. We ask the media to be more responsible and consider Jerika's right to privacy," Rodriguez said

ESTRADA: Leave my daughter alone

School in a mansion

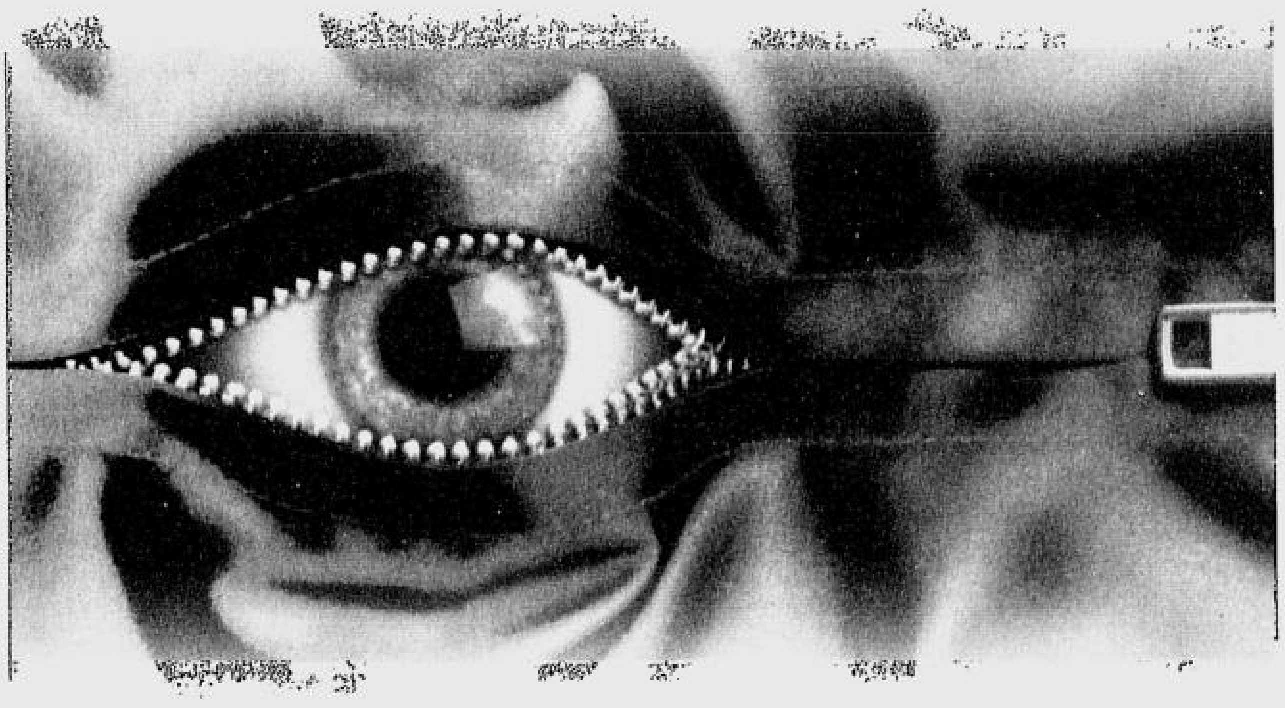
Cobham Hall, which was founded in the 1960s, has several outstanding alumni, including two great-granddaughters of Sir Winston Churchill. The school is housed in a 16th century mansion. It is set in 60 hectares of parkland and gardens.

It was named after the 10th Lord Cobham who in the 16th century built the great Tudor wings which gave Hall its distinctive character.

Queen Elizabeth I was said to have visited the Hall on two occasions while Charles I spent a night of his honeymoon there. Charles Dickens was said to have walked to the Hall from his home at Gad's Hill to visit his friend, the 7th Earl of Darnley.

Students of Cobham Hall get full access to a wide array of facilities like computers, gym, courts and fields that offer cricket, golf and hockey. The school also provides opportunities in music, drama and the visual arts.

Cobham Hall is a member of the Round Square, an affiliation of schools worldwide whose purpose is to teach students beyond preparation for college and university. The group aims to teach students about "life in the fullest sense." *With a report from Armin Adina, PDI Research*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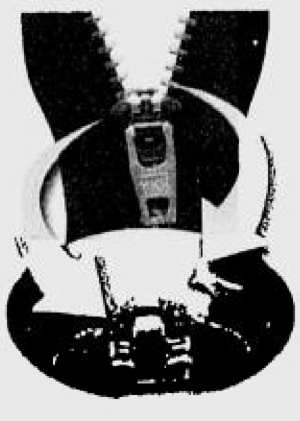
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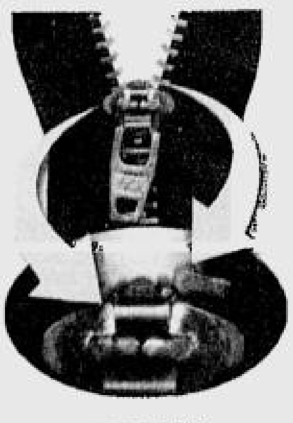
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SC: Produce mutiny leaders

From page A1

The high court also ordered the Court of Appeals to rule on allegations that the officers' rights had been violated by their detention in the Intelligence Service of the AFP compound in Camp Aguinaldo.

Besides Trillanes, the other officers are Marine Captains Gary Alejano and Nicanor Faeldon, Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, and Navy Lt. James Layug.

"The Court resolved to issue a writ of habeas corpus; require the respondents to make a return of the writ on (Aug. 18) before the CA; and refer the case to the CA for raffle among the justices thereof for a hearing, further proceedings and decision thereon, after which a report shall be made to this Court within 10 days from promulgation of the decision," the court said.

The decision came after Homobono Adaza, the officers' lawyer, filed a petition for the writ of habeas corpus before the SC on Monday.

Adaza said his clients' detention cells had become virtual "*bartolina* (stockades)."

Adaza said his clients would also ask the Makati Regional Trial Court judge hearing the coup d'etat charges against the 321 mutineers, Romeo Barza of Branch 61, to inhibit himself. The judge was reportedly a former partner of Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, President Macapagal-Arroyo's first appointee to the high court.

Bombshell testimony

Adaza said the mutiny leaders would disclose what they knew in full only if the Senate hearing was open to the public and covered by media.

"The young officers have a bombshell comparable to the second envelope in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada. It could be a Pandora's Box. But it should not be opened in an executive session," Adaza told reporters.

Asked later if the "bombshell" testimony would be disclosed in today's commission hearing, Adaza told the INQUIRER it was not likely, because he said the panel headed by retired Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano would follow a stricter procedure.

In a news forum yesterday, Adaza called for equal media coverage.

"If Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other government officials testify (against our clients) in the Senate with the full coverage of media, why can't these young officers do the same?" he asked.

At least in the case of the Feliciano Commission, the media will be allowed to cover the hearing—unless any of the officers or other witnesses request otherwise, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said.

"According to Justice Feliciano, it's in their rules that the hearing will be covered by the media. But if the respondent does not want to be covered by the media or does not want his statement to be covered by the media, then the media will not be allowed," Abaya said.

The commission can summon anyone among the mutiny leaders or any military official, he added. "Whoever is being asked by the independent commission for testimony ... (will be allowed to testify)."

Missing captains

Abaya also disclosed that two captains, Iringan and Andres, remained unaccounted for. Both are members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995.

Iringan is assigned to the Special Forces Regiment while Andres is detailed with the First Scout Rangers Regiment.

"One of them was at Oakwood. But while being transported from Oakwood to Fort Bonifacio (after the mutiny), he managed to slip (out) together with some four or five enlisted personnel. That is Captain Andres," Abaya said.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, admitted that threats to the lives of the mutiny leaders remained.

"We still believe that we cannot just dismiss threats (against) these officers; some people may have plans to silence them and we will not take any chances," Garcia told reporters in a chance interview.

The military has reserved the Patio restaurant at the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club at the back of the grandstand as the venue for today's hearing.

"When I first talked with Justice Feliciano, he outlined some of the requirements as far as physical arrangements are concerned, and we believe that the Patio at the Officers Club would serve the purpose," Abaya said.

"I think we, more or less, have a very good security set-up inside Camp Aguinaldo, but we will be providing additional security in the hearing site," Abaya said.

He declined to specify the number of troops that will be mobilized for today's hearing, but roughly 500 men are stationed inside the camp in Quezon City.

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Loi, Jude linked to Makati mutiny by Isafp

From page A1

spokesperson, said the senator was not disturbed by the allegations. The Estrada camp was now conducting an investigation into the vehicles, he added.

He acknowledged that the Estradas acquired a number of vehicles for the presidential campaign in 1998 and Ejercito's senatorial campaign in 2001 but later either sold or gave them away to their supporters.

"We're now trying to dig (up) the records," Remulla said, even as he disclosed that the Joseph Estrada-Luisa Pimentel (JELP) Foundation had no record of the Besta van in its motor pool.

Remulla said the government should complete its investigation and present their evidence so that the Estrada camp can properly reply.

JV's reaction

San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, the ex-President's son by actress Guia Gomez, said he had expected all along that his name would be dragged into the mutiny.

"I am not surprised that they are linking me and my family to the mutiny. They are really annihilating the administration's political opponent," he said.

He said this was the strategy of the administration to neutralize its opponents in the coming May elections.

He also criticized the media for putting too much emphasis on the political aspect of the rebellion.

"We have nobody to turn to, we are powerless. They have the court, the police and the military. What else can we do but pray," he said.

To compound his family's worries, a ranking justice official said the admission of former actress Laarni Enriquez, another mistress of Estrada's, that she owned the Mandaluyong City townhouse used by military rebels positively linked her to the July 27 coup attempt.

"That definitely links her (to the revolt). She allowed her property to be used as a staging ground or safe house of the rebel soldiers," said Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida.

"It corroborates and confirms the statement of Liezel Magpoc that she (Magpoc) is telling us the truth," Calida added.

Looking for boxes

He noted that Enriquez faces not just rebellion charges but also charges for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation said it was looking for two more boxes that a participant in the failed coup had brought from Zamboanga City to Manila on July 26.

Navy Ensign Jonah Arugay had claimed a box of medical supplies from a Cebu Pacific flight—the same box that was later discovered in the Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, house of top Estrada aide Ramon Cardenas.

A source from the bureau said that Arugay had checked in three boxes with him when he took Cebu Pacific flight 5J852 on July 26 from Zamboanga.

Documents from Cebu Pacific obtained by the NBI show that Arugay had checked in three packages with claim stub numbers 0203842597, 0203842598 and 0203842599.

The box in the custody of the NBI contained bags of intravenous fluids.

The source said the NBI wanted to know what the two other packages contained and where they had been brought. This information is expected to lead investigators to pinpoint who else were involved in the July 27 coup attempt.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco earlier said the medical supplies found in Cardenas' house were among those used in the recently concluded Balikatan exercises held in Mindanao.

Wycoco also said that some of the soldiers who were part of the July 27 mutiny were in Oakwood Hotel because they were told to go there by their superiors.

This is because the junior officers who were part of the coup attempt were ordered to bring 12 to 14 of their men to Oakwood, he said. The officers were given the "quota" by the masterminds of the coup.

"There was a quota. That is why the number of rebel soldiers (in the Oakwood takeover) reached up to 359," he said.

A total of 321 military personnel have since been charged with coup d'etat by the NBI. An additional 38 names have been submitted, but the bureau has yet to file charges against them because the AFP has yet to give evidence.

"Apparently, they were not told of the reason they were brought there. *Nahila lang sila* (They were just dragged into participating)," he told reporters.

Golez testimony

Testifying before the Feliciano commission in the afternoon, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the July 27 mutiny was part of a bigger plot to overthrow the Macapagal administration, a plot with the thumbprints of Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Golez said Honasan was the common denominator in the coup attempts of 1987, 1989 and 2003.

He said it was clear that Honasan was one of the leading figures in the failed putsch. He said the mutineers repeatedly mentioned and exalted the so-called National Recovery Program—Honasan's platform of government. There was also the discovery of computer diskettes detailing the plans for a takeover of government.

Golez described the junior officers as "impressionable and exploitable," saying they were led to believe that their grievances could be addressed by the overthrow of the government through a coup d'etat.

He said the mutineers' grievances, which he called legitimate, were merely "used as a cover for a *trapo* (traditional politician's) political agenda."

"It's idealism for rent," Golez said.

Senate inquiry

The Senate said it would open its inquiry on the July 27 mutiny tomorrow to the public if the Feliciano Commission continues to conduct public hearings.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday that he had learned the commission was expected last night to decide whether it would continue to hold public hearings or hold it behind closed doors.

"If the Feliciano Commission will conduct its hearings in open session, then we will consider the same as a waiver of the national security concerns raised by Malacañang in its letter to the Senate President, which necessitated the conduct of the hearing in executive session," Drilon said at a news conference.

"Therefore, the Senate will conduct its hearing on Thursday in public if the Feliciano Commission will finally decide to hold its hearing tomorrow in public," Drilon added.

A late statement distributed by Malacañang attributed the following to the President: "I strongly urge the Feliciano Commission and the Senate and the House to push on with their plans to open to the media their inquiries into the Oakwood incident. There should be no hesitation to subject the attendant issues to full democratic scrutiny and debate." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Leila B. Salaverria, Luige del Puerto*

Navy commander couldn't rein in men, quits

From page A1

resignation said Sarmiento was reassigned to the Office of the Commander of the Philippine Fleet, Rear Adm. Joaquin Tan, on Aug. 1. He was replaced by Commander Samuel Felix, a member of PMA Class of 1986, the source added.

The President called for greater accountability. "The respective commanders of the coup participants should be made to feel accountable for the actions of the participants under their command," Ms Macapagal said.

"The government has to institutionalize this sense of accountability. This will help deter further coup attempts," she added.

The source, who requested anonymity, had a different version of why Sarmiento was reassigned. "Some of the Swag personnel joined the mutiny because they didn't like his leadership style. That was one of the main reasons he was relieved by the leadership."

Sarmiento had actually written a letter to Navy Flag Officer-in-Command Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon requesting his transfer to the Office of the Commander of the Philippine Fleet shortly after the mutiny. The request was granted.

"He must have been embarrassed that some of his men joined the mutiny, that's why he sought a transfer. The participation of some of his men in the mutiny reflected (on) his leadership," the source added.

At least 10 Swag officers and 50 personnel joined the mutiny. Based on official count, 50 percent of the over 300 mutineers came from the Marines, 42 percent from the Army, and 8 percent from the Air Force.

Commander Geronimo Malabanan, Navy information officer, said that Sarmiento's reassignment was actually part of the regular reshuffle.

The revamp was triggered by the appointment of Lt. Gen. Librado Ladia as inspector general and the retirement of Adm. Antonieto Ferrer, commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Ladia was replaced as Marine commandant by Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio while Ferrer was replaced by Commodore Jay Velasco.

"Besides, Sarmiento was (already) two years in his post; he was supposed to stay there for only a year. He was really due for relief," Malabanan said.

Corpus had quit earlier to ease what he described as continued restiveness in the military. *With a report from AFP*

ERIK ARAZAS

THE FELICIANO Commission in its first session, from left: Capt. Roland Narciso, Prof. Carolina Hernandez, retired Supreme Court Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, Chair Florentino Feliciano, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. and retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles.

HK won't soothe . . .

From page A1

But dealers of the traditional paper offerings are complaining that tougher hygiene rules put in place following the SARS outbreak as well as a weak economy have dampened ancient "ghost month" rituals,

"The economy is bad, the rules are strict and people are simply not buying," says shopkeeper Kwan Yau-lun.

"Ghost month" falls during the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which extends from July 29 to Aug. 27 this year.

During this period, people throughout mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia burn paper models of anything their ancestors might need in the hereafter—including cars, houses, servants and million-dollar notes from the "Bank of Hell."

Besides the paper offerings, prayers and food, people also burn modern amenities including jets, palm computers, cameras, hairdryers, televisions and Hawaiian T-shirts. Traditional staples include tuxedos, gold bars and fake gold teeth.

But a new sense of cleanliness in Hong Kong, coupled with stiffer penalties for littering, are stopping some from burning the paper models.

Some fear ashes and bits of charred paper left on streets and sidewalks could contravene tough new hygiene laws.

Hong Kong recently raised the fines for spitting and littering to HK$1,500 (US$190) from HK$600 (US$77) in response to this year's Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak, which infected 1,755 people here and killed 299.

Officially, there is no ban on burning the paper offerings, but anyone who does must clean up afterward.

With unemployment at a record 8.6 percent, 67-year-old shop owner Lee Shu-shun says people are even reluctant to spend less than HK$20 (US$2.50) for his basic "ghost month" package, which includes incense, joss sticks and dozens of mock currency notes

"People worried about the hard times are shunning the traditional practice," says Lee. "Some stop buying, others buy less and our business is dying."

A 45-year-old housewife, Chan Kwai-lan, has burned fewer offerings this year, fearful she could be fined for leaving ashes behind.

"I used to buy two separate 'ghost month' packages for my ancestors and other spirits wandering around. But I just bought one package this year and they had to share among themselves," Chan says.

Dealers moan that business is down by 30 percent to 50 percent.

Lee says he might have to give it all up and go on welfare.

Kwan, whose business is down by half, doesn't believe the tradition of burning paper offerings to appease hungry ghosts will die out completely, but he's also not counting on a full rebound. *AP*

2 Marine whistle-blowers facing probe

From page A1

nas to Luna and Pesigan on the request of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who also requested that the two officers be given protection by the chamber or any other agency to guard against "any attempt on their lives."

According to Pimentel, Luna submitted a sworn statement saying that he witnessed the transport and turnover of ammunition from the Marine company in Sulu to Haji Bagis, former mayor of Panamao town and an ex-MILF rebel, in December 1997.

Pimentel said Pesigan was to testify on "other anomalies committed by elements within the Department of National Defense."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said he had ordered the Armed Forces to look into Luna's allegation, which was among the issues raised by the Magdalo group on July 27.

"I have ordered the AFP to investigate this serious matter, how it transpired and who are those involved. It is best that we all get to the bottom of this right away so that charges can be filed against those responsible for these treasonous acts," Reyes said.

Asked for comment, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya told reporters: "We are looking into that. According to their testimony, it happened in December 1997. That was a long time ago."

Teodosio said that considering he was at GHQ before being designated Marine commandant, he was "not really privy to what is actually going on in the field."

But he added: "I think these are very isolated cases, considering that they happened six or seven years ago."

Gideon Mortel, lawyer of Luna and Pesigan—both non-graduates of the Philippine Military Academy—said earlier that his clients were under "restrictive status" at Fort Bonifacio for unclear reasons.

Half-baked

Military officials had said they obtained the master list from crumpled diskettes left behind by the Magdalo group in its "tactical operation center" at Oakwood.

Homobono Adaza, counsel for the six suspected leaders of the uprising, yesterday dismissed the diskettes as "planted" evidence.

"I could have done a much better job at planting those pieces of evidence. The contents would have been more damaging," Adaza said at a news forum.

Three Army officers were arrested as a result of the supposed data contained in the diskettes. Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, identified them as Colonels Herbert Avinante and Pompeo Limbo (PMA Class 1978) and Maj. Demy Tejares (PMA Class 1983).

But Tejares described the master list as half-baked and a product of bad intelligence work.

He said the contents of the list should have been "confirmed and reconfirmed" before they were made public.

"The list recklessly made it appear that I am a coup plotter when in fact I am not," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Tejares claimed that had ex-military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus done his homework, the government would have distinguished between the Magdalo group and the National Recovery Program (NRP) of Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

He explained that the Magdalo group was composed of the rebel officers and men who actually camped at Oakwood, and that the NRP was "merely" a document that exposed the problems hounding the military and offered solutions to these.

"I believe in the intentions of the NRP but I never supported Honasan or the mutineers," he said. "My belief is that if a soldier doesn't believe in the system, he should get out."

Tejares' being accused of helping foment the rebellion is the second controversy to hit him in three years.

In 2000, he was accused of masterminding the murder of Mark Welson Chua, a cadet officer of the University of Santo Tomas.

Tejares was commandant of the UST Reserve Officers Training Corps when Chua was abducted and killed after exposing the alleged corruption in the school's military program.

Among the 'elders'

Tejares claimed that the Magdalo group deliberately included his name in the master list, probably to encourage more officers to join the rebellion.

"It's one thing to place a person's name in a list and it's another thing to verify if he's really part of the coup," he said.

Tejares was named in the master list as among the "elders" who brainwashed junior officers into trying to seize power from the Macapagal administration, and Avinante and Limbo, as advisers.

Adaza said it was highly unlikely for brilliant young officers to leave operational details for everyone to find.

"Who in his right mind would leave such pieces of evidence lying around?" he said.

Tejares said junior military officers approached him last year, purportedly to solicit his opinion on the NRP.

Among these officers, he said, were 2Lt. James Tayaban and 1LT. Julius Navales, now in the custody of the Intelligence Service Group for joining the Oakwood rebels.

"I realized then that I was a target for recruitment, but I made it clear to them that I could not join them," he said.

Tejares also pointed out that it was only in March that the NRP became Honasan's platform in his candidacy for president in 2004.

Despite his being implicated in the failed coup, Tejares said he was not under arrest but was just required to regularly report to Gen. Romulo Narcida, head of the Army's Headquarters Support Group in Fort Bonifacio.

'Nothing subversive'

Teodosio said Captains Luna and Pesigan had admitted attending a meeting of the Magdalo group sometime this year.

"According to them, they took an oath of allegiance when they joined the group," Teodosio said. "It seemed regular; nothing was objectionable to it, nothing subversive. Just like any [other] idealistic officers they saw nothing wrong in taking a pledge."

After attending the meeting, the two officers dissociated themselves from the group, Teodosio added.

This was what Luna said in his sworn statement:

In the afternoon of Dec. 27, 1997, he received an order from the 3rd Marine Brigade to provide light armor support and backup security to the MBLT9/3rd Marine Brigade in their logistics run that day.

He was then commanding officer of the 17th Marine Co. in Jolo.

Luna was ordered by Lt. Col. Lorenzo Dimaunahan to take two light armored vehicles and follow two M35 trucks carrying troops and 81-mm mortar cartridges, 57-mm rocket launchers and several thousand rounds for .50 cal. and other types of guns.

The ammunition was later unloaded from the trucks and handed over to Haji Bagis.

He reported the incident to Capt. George Fernandez, OIC of the Marine Intelligence Detachment stationed in Camp Bautista, Sulu, but was told that the operation had been sanctioned by the Southern Command.

Secretary Reyes clarified in a statement that he was commander of the 5th Infantry Division in Northern Luzon, and not the AFP chief of staff, when the alleged sale took place.

At that time, Gen. Arnulfo Acedera was the AFP chief while Lt. Gen. Romeo Padiernos was Southcom chief, Reyes said, citing records. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Double taxes for Avenida

By Tarra Quismundo

REPAIR or despair.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday told building owners along Rizal Avenue to spruce up their properties or face sanctions.

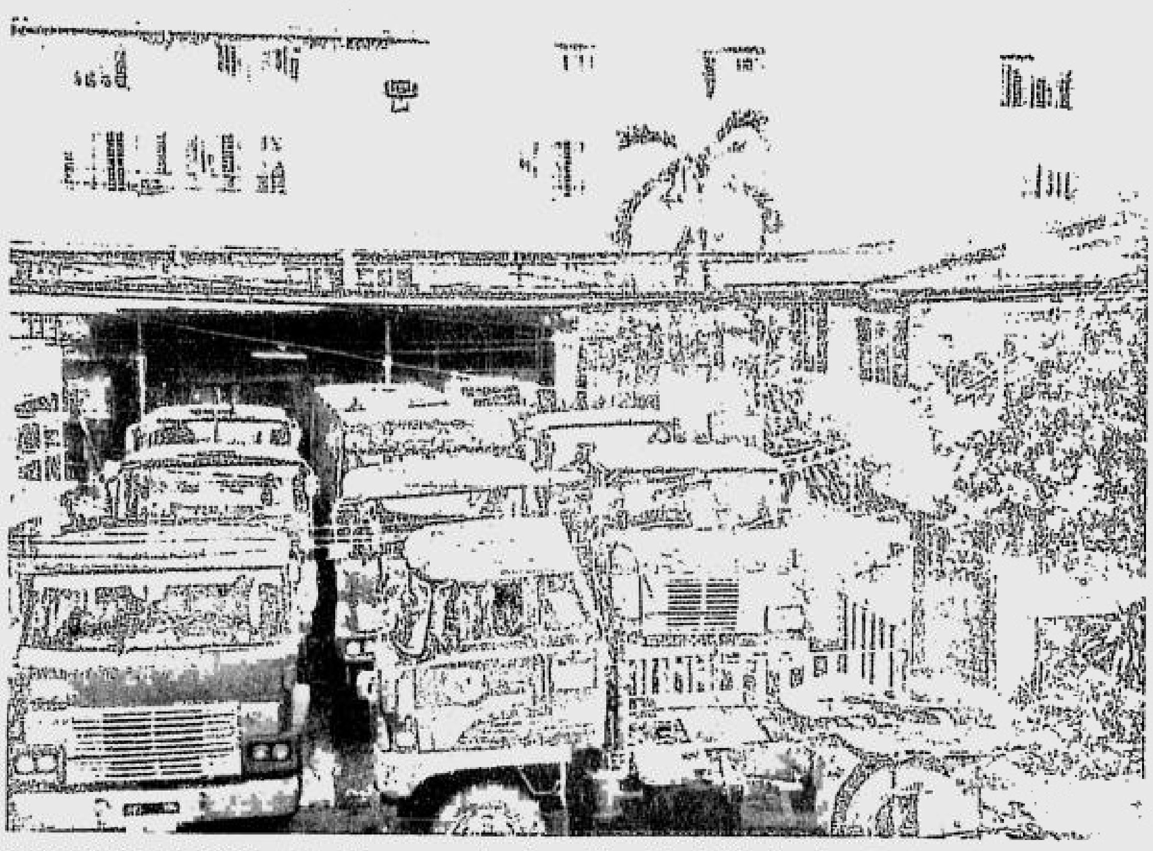
One option, the mayor said, was to charge the building owners with twice the amount of tax that they usually paid.

"Or I will also use my power to expropriate them and turn them into parking buildings," Atienza warned, while pointing at the dilapidated upper floors of the structures.

Atienza said he expected the buildings to be improved along with the development of Rizal Avenue as a shopping strip.

On the other hand, owners who will renovate their property will not be slapped additional taxes for five years.

Makati folk live with 18-year-old 'headache'


THE TRUCKS of ESC Trucking Company make the residential neighborhood on Arellano Avenue appear like an industrial zone.

By Margaux Ortiz

THEY are tired and angry.

Residents of Arellano Avenue and Madras Street in Palanan, Makati, have been fighting feelings of frustration and hopelessness for the past two decades.

Since 1986, they have been complaining of trucks using a 300 square meter lot at 4637 Arellano Ave. as a garage.

Manuel Bondad, a resident for 30 years, recounted that their problem began a year earlier when trucks of ESC Trucking Company started occupying the lot in the residential area.

Bondad said the terminal stuck out like a sore thumb in the community.

He added that numerous complaints to the police, barangay officials, and even the mayor had proven useless. "(ESC) would lie low for a few weeks and the problem would start all over again," Bondad said in an interview.

The resident pointed out that an August 2001 Makati City zoning ordinance classified Palanan and Arellano Avenue as a residential area.

Letty Mojica-Cruz, who lives beside the ESC compound, said they were constantly agonizing over the noise and the fumes of the trucks.

Cruz said her father, Zosimo Mojico, wrote the city government as early as 1986 to request for the relocation of the trucks.

"Our father has been deceased for many years now and still the problem remains unsolved," she lamented.

Herman Guillen, a 49-year-old engineer who signed the first signature campaign against the trucks in 1986, said they were fed up with the lack of action of concerned officials.

However, Emmanuel Castillo, owner of ESC Trucking Co., said he had been trying to patch things up with the residents.

Castillo, who lives in Alabang, stressed that his business was legitimate. "I am not a squatter so I should not be relocated," he said.

He added that for 18 years the government had been issuing him permits to use the lot as a parking area for the trucks.

Abalos chides Laarni

Stealth not needed to get permits, says mayor

By Luige del Puerto

THERE was no need for exstarlet Laarni Enriquez to register her townhouse in Mandaluyong City under the name of another person, according Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr.

"We give permits to anyone who applies as long as it is within the bounds of law," Abalos said.

Enriquez, a mistress of ousted president Estrada, claimed that she had to register her townhouse in the name of her friend Liezel Magpoc because she was having a hard time obtaining clearances and permits from the city government.

"How can she have a hard time (getting) a clearance when it was made during the presidency of her husband (Joseph Estrada). I'm just a mayor. He was the President. How could I not give a permit?" Abalos said.

City engineer Conrad Anciado said the townhouse's contractor, JELP Real Estate Development Corp., never even applied for a building permit.

The government said the townhouse at 461 J.B. Vargas St., Barangay Bagong Silang, was a staging area in the failed coup of July 27. It has charged Enriquez with rebellion.

Police said they found bullets, camouflage uniforms, pistol belts, flippers, backpacks, red armbands and a flag that bore the rebel soldiers' "Magdalo" symbol inside the townhouse.

"Show me one piece of paper of denial of any permit and I will dismiss my city engineer," Abalos said.

Anciado said his office sent a notice of violation to JELP in May 2000 and a representative showed up to get a checklist of requirements for a permit but they never came back.

218 cases vs cops dismissed

By Tarra Quismundo

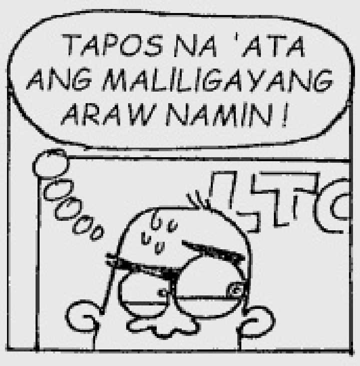
IF IT can dismiss policemen, it can also dismiss cases against them.

In fact, the Manila People's Law Enforcement Board, a quasi-judicial body where complaints against policemen can be filed, has dismissed 218 of the 245 cases it received in eight months.

"Some people just file charges to retaliate against policemen," said PLEB Chief Legal Officer Francesca Manzano, adding that many of the cases which the board gets are for illegal arrest and detention.

"The cases we handle are studied carefully," said Loida Ballaran of the board's secretariat.

Ballaran explained that the board dismisses complaints if evidence presented by a complainant is insufficient.


TAPOS NA 'ATA ANG MALILIGAYANG ARAW NAMIN!
LTO

LTO spies to hunt down fixers

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

FIXERS beware.

Following the example set by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza has been sending "spies" to the Land Transportation Office in Quezon City to uncover anomalies at the agency, including the proliferation of fixers.

Mendoza took over former LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso, who was eased out of the agency weeks after a surprise visit by the President on June 9.

A furious Ms Macapagal told Lastimoso that one of her spies had confirmed that fixers were operating in the agency.

METROBRIEFS

Robber shot

POLICE on Monday shot and wounded Jonathan Chung after he allegedly held up a shopper at the Cherry Foodarama in Mandaluyong City. Police said Nestor de las Alas was boarding his Honda Civic at the grocery parking lot when Chung tried to rob him. SP02 Pablo Roxas said Chung later reportedly engaged lawmen in a shoot out. The suspect was brought to the Cardinal Santos Medical Center for treatment. *Luige del Puerto*

2 fires in 2 days

TWO FIRES hit Quezon City in two days. Martin Cuadra, 25, Joselito Chavez, 31, and Elmer Victorino, 25, sustained burns and bruises when the first fire broke out at a two-story house on San Pablo Street, Barangay Bagumbayan, Libis, at 2:55 p.m. Monday. Damage was pegged at P3 million, FO3 Fortunato Alde said. Yesterday morning, property worth at least P500,000 was destroyed in a fire that broke out at the P.B. Dionisio Firing Range in West Riverside, Barangay San Antonio, San Francisco Del Monte. The fire gutted the right wing of the building, owned by Nari Dionisio. *Tina Santos*

Post-graduate course

THE PENTA Hospital Surgical Group Foundation, Inc. is inviting everyone to its 7th post-graduate course entitled "Management and nutrition issues: The critically ill surgical patient," to be hosted by the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on Aug. 14 and 15. Dr. Pablo A. Chua is the course director. For particulars, please call 716-3901 local 297, and look for Doris or Dr. Dacanay.

Calisaan...

From page A22

created on Monday cleared the MCU hospital from any liability, and instead closed down the Espiritu Maternity and Medical Clinic where the Calisaan quadruplets were delivered on July 15.

Teresita Sicat, grandmother of the quadruplets, also told the INQUIRER that the family was disappointed with the DoH investigation.

"*Ano pa magagawa namin* (What can we do)?" Sicat said yesterday. "*Wala kaming kalaban-laban sa* MCU (We cannot take on MCU)."

The quadruplets were taken to the MCU hospital about 11 a.m. on July 16, but the hospital told the Calisaans that no incubator was available for the quadruplets.

The quadruplets were transferred to the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital six hours later.

Sicat said MCU staff members refused to release her grandchildren until they were able to settle the hospital bills.

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METRO
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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

2 Manila police officials sacked

Atienza: Cops may be on the take

By Leila Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo

TWO MANILA police officials yesterday were relieved of their commands allegedly for failing to implement the organized vending program of the city government.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday said that he has yet to name the replacements of Supt. Angelito Santamina, head of WPD station 3, and Chief Insp. Ferdinand Quirante, commander of the Blumentritt Police Community Precinct.

Station 3 covers the Sta. Cruz district in Manila, which includes the Blumentritt area.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza sought the immediate replacement of the police officials after he toured the Blumentritt area and saw scores of vendors lining the streets.

The mayor yesterday noted that illegal vendors were even doing business in front of the police precinct.

"It only means that (the police officials) continue to receive money from the vendors," Atienza said.

The mayor said the vendors have been transferred to the new Antipolo market annex where they could rent stalls for P20 a day. This, he said, should have prevented the vendors from selling on the streets.

"But when I came back three weeks later, the vendors were there," he said. "I gave a memo reprimanding the officers for the first offense."

When Atienza returned to Blumentritt street yesterday, two weeks after the memo was sent, he saw the vendors again.

"I've already told (the officials) they are accountable if the vendors come back," said Atienza. "They must be making money."

But Santamina said that Station 3 policemen had been clearing the area of illegal vendors, and had even conducted operations yesterday morning.

But the problem, says Santamina, is that vendors keep on returning.

"Whenever we leave the area after conducting operations, the vendors return," he said yesterday. "That is why we need the help of barangay officials to remove the vendors."

He said that he would just answer the administrative case that would be filed against him.

Calisaan: We didn't expect it to end this way

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

DISAPPOINTED and shocked.

This was how the parents of the Calisaan quadruplets felt when they heard the result of the Department of Health's investigation, clearing the Manila Central University hospital of any liability in the babies' death.

"We feel sad," said Vladimir Calisaan, father of the quadruplets. "We did not expect the investigation would end this way."

Though his hopes of "seeking justice" for his daughters are fading, Vladimir yesterday told the INQUIRER that he was clinging on President Macapagal-Arroyo's promise that she would not allow the investigation to be whitewashed.

Ms Macapagal visited the Calisaans at their house in Caloocan City a day after Maria Jhobelle, the last of the quadruplets, died.

The five-member fact-finding team the DOH

CALISAAN/A21

2 Malabon officials suspended

TWO MALABON City officials—one a councilor, the other an assistant to the mayor—have been placed under preventive suspension while their respective cases are pending in court.

Judge Benjamin Antonio of Regional Trial Court Branch 170 on Aug. 6 ordered the suspension of Edilberto Torres, a city councilor, and Consuelo Torres-Pili, former councilor and now executive assistant in the Mayor's Office.

Torres has been charged with Estafa through Falsification of Public Documents for allegedly faking the daily time records of his daughter who was working as a member of his staff. He has also been accused of hiring his daughter while she was still going to school.

Torres-Pili has been charged with Falsification of Public Documents for allegedly faking receipts supposedly for the payment of medical equipment for the city government in 1995. But the receipts, in the amounts of P20,570 and P20,000 respectively, were reportedly found to be issued by an electronics shop for a different transaction.

The preventive suspension would be in effect for 90 days.

Torres told the INQUIRER yesterday that he has yet to receive a copy of the order.

The daughter of Torres-Pili, who is also working at Malabon City Hall, yesterday said that her mother was already aware of the court order. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Group Masters; 7 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—First and second round action continues from Cincinnati, Ohio.

GOLF: LPGA Evian Masters; 1 p.m.; ESPN—Find out who makes the cut as the second round takes place in Les Bains, France.

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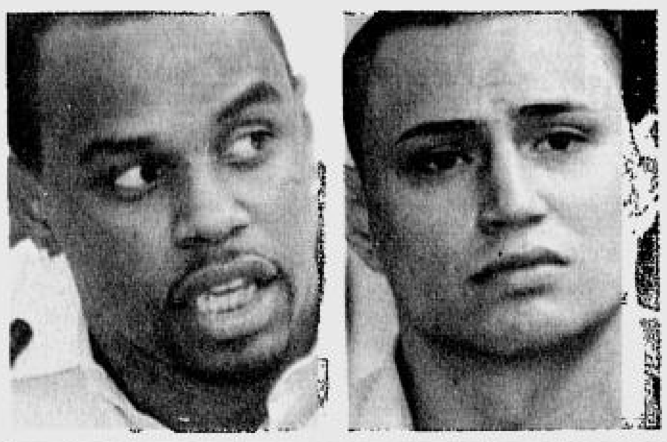
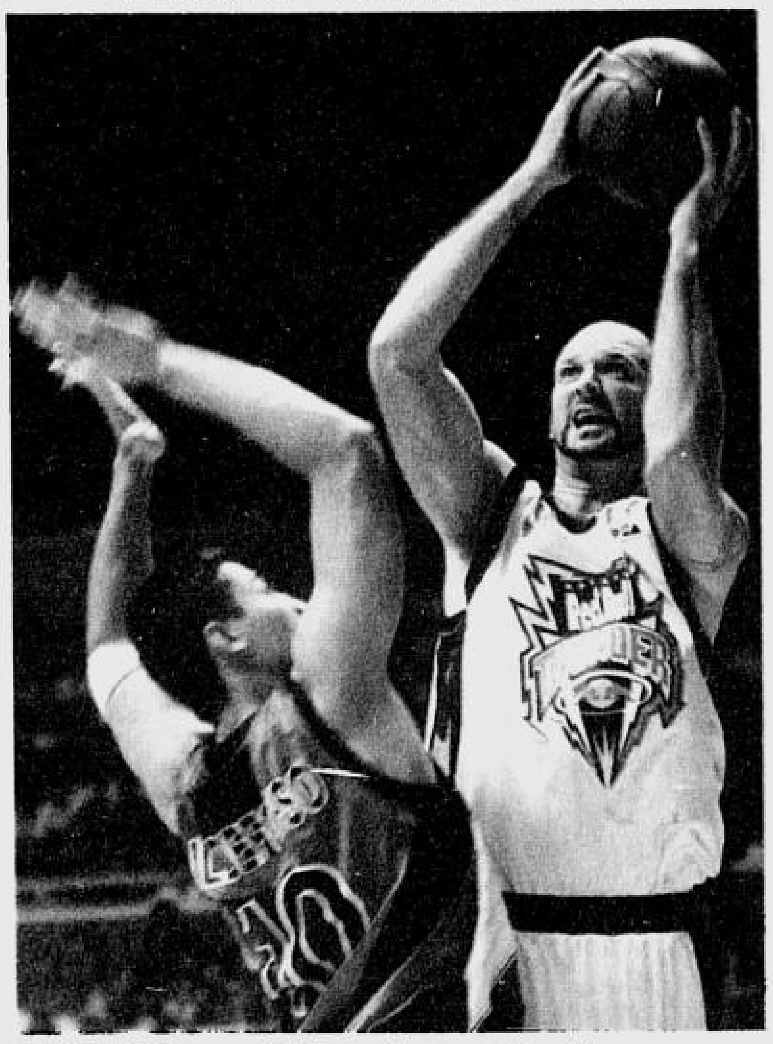


Peña, Pennisi, Crisano also on deportation list

By June Navarro and Michael Lim Ubac



CLOCKWISE from top left, Peña, Crisano and Pennisi. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THREE more players—Mick Pennisi, Dorian Peña, Alex Crisano—were included in the deportation bandwagon as the Senate finalized in a plenary session yesterday its recommendation to expel Fil-foreigners who allegedly falsified their citizenship papers.

Pennisi of Red Bull, Peña of San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra's Crisano were added to the five alleged "Fil-shams"—Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, Davonn Harp of Red Bull Barako, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Jon Ordonio and Andy Siegel of Purefoods—who were earlier recommended for summary deportation by the joint Senate committees on games, amusement and sports as well as constitutional amendments.

Except for Senators Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla and Gringo Honasan, all 17 senators present during the session unanimously adopted the recommendation.

Sen. John Osmeña even requested that Pennisi, Peña and Crisano be elevated to the Senate's deportation list.

Pangilinan is out of the country while Revilla and Honasan were absent from the plenary.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on games, amusement and sports, said the resolution would be forwarded to the Bureau of Immigration for implementation.

Immigration chief Andrea Domingo has ordered the creation of a committee that will fast-track deportation proceedings against the eight Fil-foreigners who were found to have faked their papers so they can play in the professional league.

Domingo has tapped lawyer Roy Almoro as executive director of the committee, which is tasked to institute deportation proceedings against the alleged "Fil-shams" within 30 days.

Almoro said the bureau has already requested Department of Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to revoke the citizenship confirmation documents issued by the department on the Fil-foreigners.

"We are expecting a swift reply from the DOJ. Once their confirmations have been cancelled, we could immediately institute summary deportation proceedings on the Fil-foreigners," said Almoro.

With Immigration's action, Jojo Lastimosa, spokesperson of the PBA Players' Union, said the players' group would now disregard plans to file cases against the Fil-foreigners since Immigration has taken over the responsibility to expel the players.

"This is some sort of victory, especially for the Filipino players. *Pero naawa ako sa mga nadamay* because not all of them are fake Fil-foreigners and they have the right to play here," said Lastimosa.

An INQUIRER source said the players' union were only targeting five Fil-foreigners whom they believed had used fraudulent means to gain Filipino citizenship.

Taulava, Hatfield, Pennisi and Harp were on the players union's list. The source also said Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis was also on the list.

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All FINALISTS will compete in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals to be held from September 26 to 28, 2003 at the SSS Main, East Ave., Quezon City.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **TNT, Coke, Red Bull, fight for life** /A24
- **Chang bids adieu on losing note** /A25

World Series heartbreaker for Negros girls

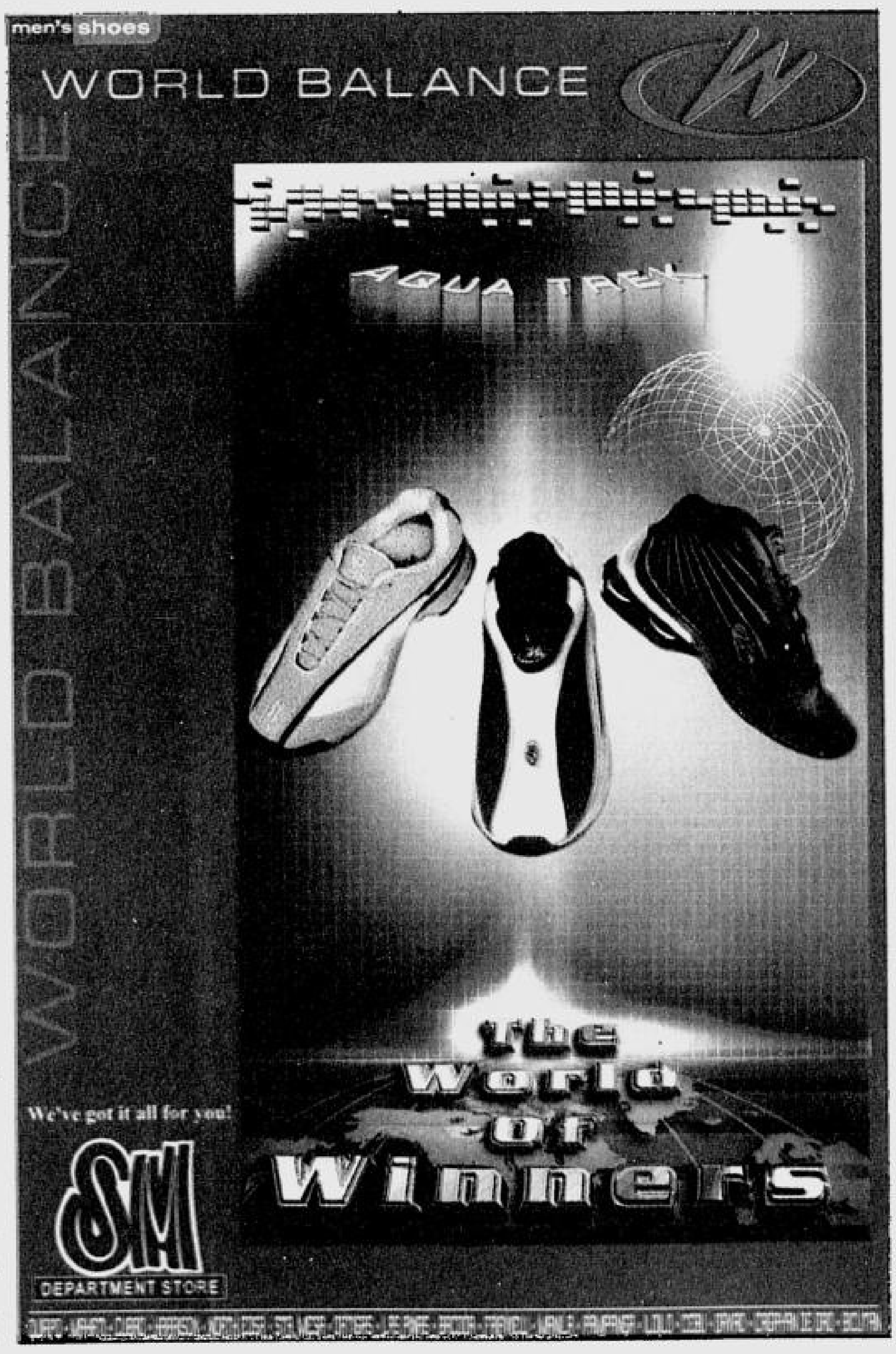
By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEIR dreams of making it to the Little League World Series began with the joy of qualification and ended in tears.

Yesterday, two Little League girls' teams from Bacolod waived their slots in the prestigious championships in the United States because of lack of funds.

Batters from Domingo Lacson National High School didn't make their scheduled flight to Jefferson, Kentucky, while their counterparts from Bacolod's Education and

WORLD/ A24



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Knights, Lions try to get closer to Final 4

STANDINGS	W	L
SENIORS		
San Beda	6	2
Letran	6	2
JRU	5	4
Mapua	4	3
SSC-R	4	3
PCU	3	3
UPHR	3	6
CSB	2	7
JUNIORS		
San Beda	8	0
SSC-R	5	2
Letran	6	2
CSB	6	3
Mapua	4	3
PCU	2	7
JRU	1	8
UPHR	1	8

GAMES TODAY (*Makati Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—Mapua vs Letran (Jrs)
11 a.m.—SSC-R vs SBC (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs Letran (srs)
4 p.m.—SSC-R vs SBC (srs)

FRONTRUNNERS Letran and San Beda College try to pull away from the rest of the field when they take on separate rivals today at the resumption of NCAA basketball at the Makati Coliseum.

Sporting identical 6-2 records, the Knights and the Red Lions are closing in on a Final Four stint. They each need three more victories to earn a spot in the semifinal playoffs.

The Knights battle the Mapua Cardinals at 2 p.m. while the Lions take on the San Sebastian Stags in the second senior game at 4 p.m.

Beaten by the Cardinals during the season opener, the Knights have an axe to grind against their foes.

In that game, gunner Jonathan Pinera was still learning the ropes in NCAA play while Ronjay Enrile, Jonathan Aldave, Boyet Bautista, Dale Santos and Eric Rodriguez were overcome by opening-game jitters.

"They were all groping for form at the time. Now that there is chemistry in the team, I guess we have a pretty good chance of getting back at Mapua," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

But coach Horacio Lim is not taking any chances.

"Letran is improving every game. At that, we cannot take them for granted," said Lim, who is expected to rely again on Christian Guevarra, Raymond Dula, Nat Cruz, Hermes Sumalinog, Andrew Salud, Jeffrey Martin, Jeff Gonzales, Tristan Veranga, Roby David and Ryan Malig to fend off the Knights.

June Navarro

CRUCIAL MATCHUPS

TNT, Coke, Red Bull, fight for life

RED Bull Barako and Talk 'N Text dispute the last semifinal slot in Group A even as Coca-Cola aims to clinch a seat in the next round today in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Thunder are actually gunning for a sweep of its assignments when they play the Phone Pals at 5 p.m. Victory tonight will move Red Bull Barako to the crossover semifinals, joining the FedEx Express, which finished the eliminations with a 3-1 card.

The Express exploited Asi Taulava's lack of focus last Saturday as they downed the Phone Pals, 91-81, to advance to the next round.

Two days before the Express claimed the scalp of the Phone Pals, a Senate panel recommended the deportation of five Filipino-foreigners including Taulava, wreaking havoc on the 6-foot-9 Fil-Tongan's concentration.

But the All Filipino Cup MVP is expected to come out strong today after the Talk 'N Text management threw its support behind his claim to Filipino citizenship.

The Thunder, who swept their first three assignments, can't afford to lose, however. A setback would pull Red Bull out of the semis on an inferior quotient.

Red Bull's Mick Pennisi, whose Filipino roots was also questioned, is still under investigation by the Senate panel, but coach Yeng Guiao said this would not dampen team spirit.

Despite also being recommended for deportation, Rudy Hatfield hardly displayed the ego-deflating effects of the Senate report, sparking the Tigers' 98-63 rout of Magnolia-Jilin of China during the weekend.

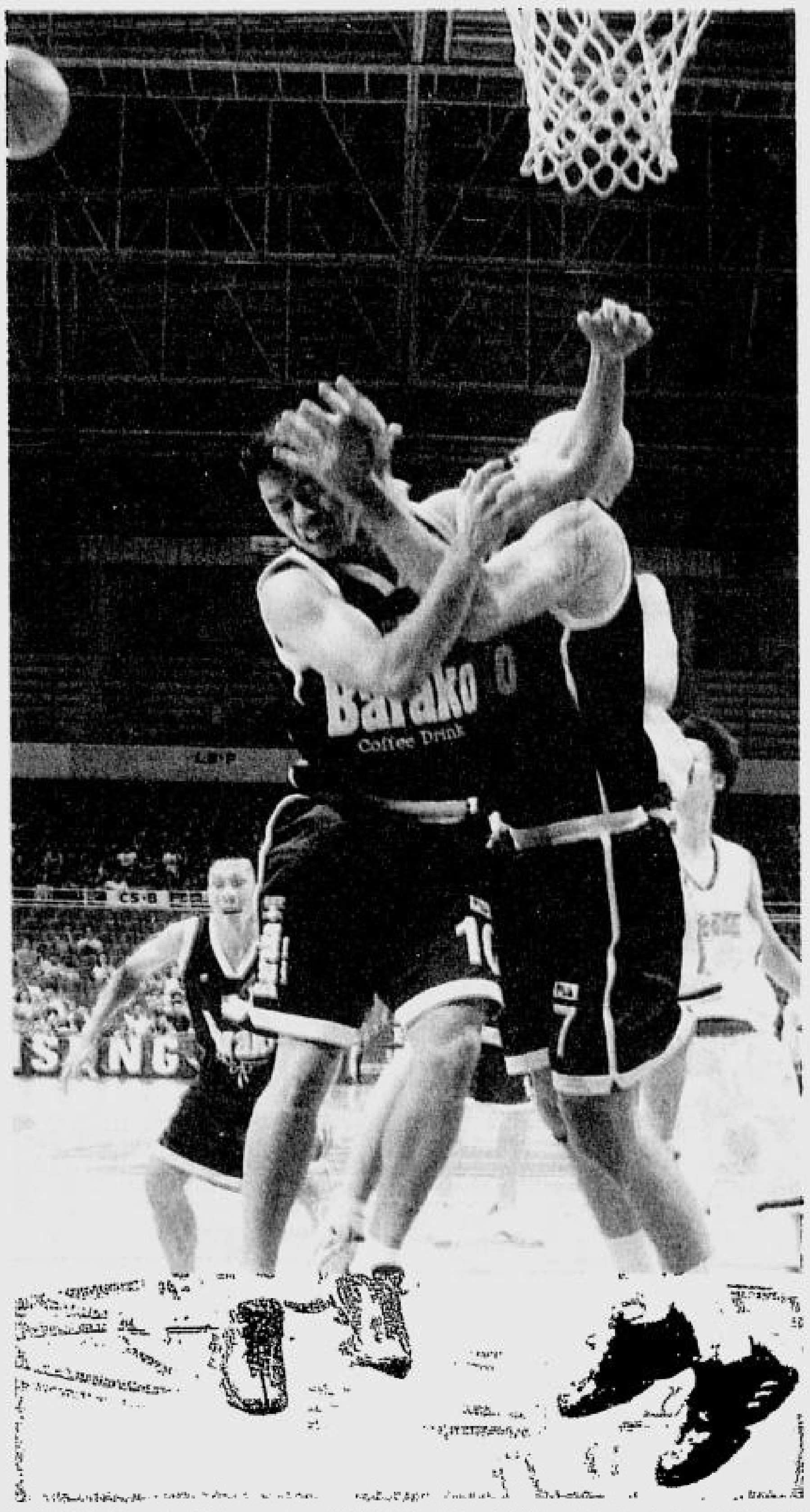
Coca-Cola is expected to lean on Hatfield again when it collides with the Cebuana Lhuiller RP Team in a game where its chances of making the semifinals are at stake.

A defeat at the hands of the Nationals, unlikely though it may seem based on the two teams' strengths, would eliminate the Tigers, while opening the semifinal door to the San Miguel Beermen.

In case of a Coca-Cola setback, a triple tie will ensue among the Tigers, the Beermen and the Nationals at 2-1 in Group B. But by virtue of a higher quotient, the Beermen will join the Alaska Aces in the semis.

A Coca-Cola win, however, will see them barge into the next round without encountering quotient problems at all.

June Navarro



RED Bull's Junthy Valenzuela and Mick Pennisi collide in mid-air during a rebound struggle in their recent game against Yonsei University. RUDY ESPERAS

La Salle, UE seek 5th wins

GAMES TODAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
11 a.m.—DLS-Zobel vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs UE (Srs)
6 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs)

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	6	1
Ateneo	5	2
La Salle	4	2
UE	4	2
Adamson	3	3
UST	2	5
UP	1	5
NU	1	6

LA SALLE and University of the East seek to end their first round campaign on a winning note when they clash with dangerous foes today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Five days after getting ambushed by archrival Ateneo, 82-68, at the Araneta Coliseum, the Archers take on the resurgent Adamson Falcons at 2 p.m.

The Warriors, meanwhile, collide with the UP Maroons at 6 p.m.

"Anybody is capable of pulling a surprise this season. Aside from a veteran lineup, Adamson has also recruited blue-chip rookies. This game should be very exciting," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren, adding he is satisfied with the Archers' first round showing.

Coming off their first-back-to-back wins in 10 years, the Falcons are oozing with confidence—despite the fact that no Adamson team has won in any of its past 13 games with La Salle since 1996.

Dennis U. Eroa

Manila Golf outplays Eastridge, gains semis

STANDINGS
Group 1: 14 Manila Golf, Eastridge 13, 10 Southwoods, 4 Highlands, 3 Mimosa
Group II: 18 Forest Hills, 15 Alabang, 11 Valley, 8 Wack Wack, 7 Orchard, 5 John Hay
Group III: 15 Riviera, 13 Northwoods, 12 Mt. Malarayat, 11 Sherwood Hills, 9 Canlubang, 5 Sta. Elena.

CLOSE victories in the best ball and scramble matches propelled defending champion Manila Golf Club past a visiting Eastridge side, 3-1, yesterday and straight into the semifinals of the Federation Golf League.

Scramble partners Richie Garcia and Dennis Valdes rallied from two down with three to go by sweeping the final corner as Valdes buried two birdie putts from long range on the last two holes for an exciting 1 up victory that secured the win and the semis berth for Manila Golf.

That big escape came after Manoling Chan and Dodo Cuunjieng, playing best ball, went down the wire themselves before pulling off a close 1 up win.

Contrasting scenes in RP boxing

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

ON FRIDAY, a young man from Tabaco, Albay, who wore his long hair bunched like a makeshift crown, scored the 15th win of his boxing career inside the steaming, overflow Mandaluyong Gymnasium. Rolly Lunas, thus made the first defense of his pan Asia flyweight title.

The crowd responded with an ovation when Lunas raised his gloves in victory.

This was all to be expected.

But Ted Lerner, who anchored the TV coverage of the bout, clucked his tongue.

I shook my head.

Lunas, indeed, needed the victory.

But out there under the pale glow of the gym lights, he was nothing more than a young cager who has scored a hundred points for his team which had actually needed only ten points from him in order to win.

Not to say it was an empty victory Lunas had notched.

No, please. The Pan Asia crown, the way it's being peddled, could be equal to the Orient-Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) title in worth.

However, Lunas on Friday succeeded more in displaying newfound deficiencies than show his ability to go big time.

***

Ted Lerner, with a keen eye for boxing talent, could not be blamed that the Thai challenger, weak, slow, devoid of skills, was not even a shadow of what promoters had trumpeted him to be.

Maybe Lunas could have performed better given a worthier opponent?

Maybe. But even his chief backer, Mayor Benhur Abalos, readily agreed and admitted that Lunas' carpenter punches, mainly his odd, slapping right, should be sent to the nearest repair shop.

OK. His handlers were clearly trying to send the message that Lunas should be ready for a crack at the world crown by next year at the latest.

But the ill-equipped Pan Asia flyweight titlist would be greatly disappointed if he falls into this trap.

Yes, if Lunas (15-2-0) does not agree to evaluate and reform his fighting style, he could end up crying again. Just like what happened to him in the two times he fought in Japan where he had suffered back-to-back losses.

Anyway, if Lunas' handlers want to know a thing or two on what should be corrected, they could go to sidewalk fish market in Hulo, where young Visayan vendors, who came to the Mandaluyong gym on Friday, could give them free tips on how Lunas could be converted into a more convincing winner.

***

Of course, dear Pinoy fight fans need not despair.

One *kababayan* who appeared to have moved closer to a world crown without throwing a punch on Sunday was Cebu-based Randy Suico, reigning OPBF junior lightweight champion.

The way it looks, the rock-fisted 23-year-old Suico, unbeaten in 20 fights (with 17 KOs) could be a perfect foil for Popo Freitas who on Sunday retained his world 130-pound crown with a classic stoppage of Argentine Jorge Barrios in Miami.

That's according to boxing scholar Salven Lagumbay who at age 29 is said to be the youngest international boxing judge.

Lagumbay added that Suico, ranked No. 2 by the WBC, is just waiting to challenge the winner of the Aug. 15 title bout between WBC titlist Sirimongkol Singmanassuk of Thailand and No. 1 challenger Jesus Chavez of Mexico.

Suico of Mandaue City, originally from the Tony Aldeguer stable and now managed by Japanese Joe Koizumi, is also rated No. 6 in the WBA, which recognizes Brazil's Freitas as one of its treasured champs.

You see, the good-looking Freitas had to pick himself up at least twice from the floor before scoring that final-round stoppage.

That brittle, glassy Brazilian chin exposed by Freitas is perfect for Suico's shattering shots, the young Lagumbay surmised.

The problem now, is how to package and project Suico as big and exciting as Manny Pacquiao.

Joe Koizumi may not be noisy enough to do that overnight.

SPORTSWATCH

NCAA South caging set

DEFENDING champion St. Benedict College leads six teams seeing action in the NCAA-South men's basketball tournament starting on Saturday at the Lyceum of Batangas courts in Batangas City. Challenging St. Benedict in the league's fifth staging are University of Perpetual Help System-Biñan, Colegio de San Juan de Letran-Calamba, De La Salle-Lipa, Lyceum of Batangas and Don Bosco College-Mandaluyong. The opening games, set at 1 p.m., pit Lyceum against Letran and St. Benedict against Don Bosco College. Volleyball competitions will be held simultaneously with basketball, according to Ms Fe Rabanal-Medina, vice president/registrar of host Lyceum of Batangas and chair of the organizing committee. Perpetual and De La Salle-Lipa are the defending women's basketball and volleyball titlists, respectively.

Tuason brods finish 1-2

ROSARIO, Batangas—Brothers Mike and JP Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile pulled a 1-2 finish in the Formula Rotax 125 Expert class yesterday in the sixth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit here. Mike Tuason, the first Filipino Asian Zone Karting champion at age 16, made a decisive dive against Gosnel at the second to the last turn of the last lap to win the race. He clocked 19:10.636 or just 0.295 seconds ahead of JP, who sneaked in second after Mike's pivotal move.

Theresian Golf Cup

HIGH School Class 1979 of St. Theresa's College, Manila, will hold the First Theresian Invitational Golf Cup on Friday at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. It will be the initial fund-raiser of the class, which will celebrate its silver jubilee at the next annual homecoming. In preparation, members formed STCM Class '79 Association Inc., through which they plan to undertake various projects. Interested alumnae may call Ondie Sianghio-Recio, 533-6929 or 0917-5276819, Annette Manapil, 842-6068; Gina Dolorfino-Arreza, 729-2347; and Cristy Canizares-Gacuma, 899-3678; or any of the following who were present at a recent organizational meeting. Michelle Sevilla-Manzano, Joan Abesamis-Zaldumbide, Patty Sison-Escobal, Cristy Elazegui-Puzon, Vivien, Coronel-Arnovit, Marites Manalo-Gutierrez, Coy Bautista-Salao, Marian Zulaybar-Rustia, Rosette Zalamea-Gutierrez and Malou Perez.

Dimakiling leads finalists

DAVAO City's Angeli Marie Dimakiling survived a three-game knockout phase to emerge as one of four finalists in the Kiddies division of the Mindanao Leg of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship held Aug. 9-10 at the Atrium, Gaisano Mall, Davao City. Dimakiling earned a trip to the Grand Finals to be held in Manila on Sept. 27-28, along with Jay Bulicatin of Panabo City, Ronnel Alsado, also of Panabo City and Sheider Nebato of General Santos City.

DLSU vs Far Eastern

HANS SMIT, newly appointed head coach of the RP Under-19 women's football squad joins coach Meri Acibar on the De La Salle University bench in the team's semifinal match against Far Eastern University in the "Samsung Ladies Open" tonight at the Nomad Sports pitch in Merville, Paranaque. Smit and Acibar will try to duplicate their wards' no-bearing 2-1 victory over Jo Loren's FEU soccer lasses last Sunday. On the other hand, Loren, also the skipper of the RP National Women's squad, hopes to lift her team after overtime losses to DLSU and UP recently. Coach Mike Athab and his University of the Philippines girls take on coach Braxton's Alumnae FC, a selection of ex-and-current national players in the 6 p.m. opener. Alumnae FC finished second to DLSU in the elimination round.

Corporate billiards

TOP cue artists see action when the Corporate Billiards League (CBL) goes full blaston August 16 at Rommel's Billiards in Timog, Quezon City. This was announced yesterday by organizer Rolly Baron and Tanduay Distillers advertising manager Larry Li at the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Manila Pavilion.

World Series . . .

From page A23

Training Center School (ETCS) could not board the plane bound for Portland, Oregon.

All because the girls' handlers failed to raise enough funds to pay for their plane tickets and hotel expenses in the United States.

The girls wept as they sorted their bags for the trip back to Bacolod. For weeks, the girls had made the badly kept Rizal Memorial Sports Complex their quarters, not knowing that their elders could not raise funds.

Weightlifting president and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday deplored the plight of the Little Leaguers, saying he would raise the issue with the Philippine Olympic Committee general assembly to find out who was at fault for this "depressing incident."

"It's the responsibility of the NSA (national sports association) which conducts the elimination to solve this. Or not have a team at all," said Puentevella. "This is irresponsible on their part."

Little League Philippines, an organization that is not part of the POC, could not be reached for comment.

The Lacson High girls were the Asia-Pacific Region's representatives in the 14-16 category of the series from Aug. 11-16, while the ETCS girls are entered in the girls' 11-12 category set for Aug. 6-13.

GOODWILL GAME
Yen Hsin Su (left) of Mail&More-Chinese Taipei drives past a Barangay Ginebra defender during their RP-Taiwan Goodwill Series game at the Ynares gym in Antipolo. Ginebra won, 78-61. Yen plays Chen Feng in the hit Chinovela "My MVP Valentine." AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

CINCINNATI MASTERS

Chang bids adieu on losing note

MASON, Ohio—Michael Chang stood by the baseline, his hands tucked in his pants pockets, as he listened to speakers recount his 26 years of top-notch tennis.

Instead of a victory, he had to settle for tributes and a going-away gift.

Chang let a first-round match get away Monday in one of his favorite tournaments, losing to a qualifier in three sets at the Cincinnati Masters. A few hours later, he was honored in his final appearance at center court.

Fans stood and applauded Chang, 31, who will retire after the US Open. Tournament organizers gave him a collage of photos from previous appearances.

They had planned to give it to him, win or lose.

"It's a little more fun when you win than when you lose, but it's important to have a good perspective, a good attitude out there," said Chang, a two-time champion in Cincinnati. "The last thing you want to do is walk away from your career and not feel good about being out there."

Chang's 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-0 loss to Morocco's Hicham Arazi left the $2.45 million tournament without its top draw, its defending champion and its sentimental favorite.

Top-ranked Andre Agassi withdrew on Saturday, choosing to concentrate on the US Open that begins Aug. 25. In the first match on center court Monday, defending champion Carlos Moya ran into more first-round misery.

The fourth-seeded Moya lost to France's Fabrice Santoro 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, his third straight loss in the first round since he won in Croatia last month.

Zvonareva shines

TORONTO—World No. 16 Vera Zvonareva won her first tour match since Wimbledon on Monday when she beat Austria's Barbara Schett 6-1, 7-6 (0) in the first round of the Rogers AT&T Cup. *AP*

Record set in Royals win

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—Mike DiFelice hit three doubles as Kansas City and the New York Yankees combined to set an American League record with 19 two-base hits in the Royals' 12-9 victory Monday.

The teams broke the AL mark of 18 doubles by Cleveland and Minnesota on July 13, 1996. The major league record is 23 by St. Louis and the Chicago Cubs on July 12, 1931.

Mike Sweeney, Joe Randa and DiFelice all doubled during a four-run eighth inning off Yankees newcomer Bret Prinz. After the Royals set a team record with 11 doubles, the Yankees made sure the game broke the league record for doubles as Derek Jeter and Jason Giambi hit them in the ninth inning.

"It's just one of those wild nights that can't be explained in baseball," said Randa. "I promise you, nobody comes to the plate planning to hit doubles. They just happen."

DiFelice drove in three runs as the Royals won their third successive game, taking advantage of the Yankees' battered bullpen to send New York to its third straight loss. The Yankees had not lost at Kansas City since Sept. 6, 2000.

"It's just a freak night," said Sweeney. "But we got a win. Every night's been a new hero."

The winner was D.J. Carrasco (4-4), who pitched 1 2-3 innings of hitless relief. *AP*

MAKATI
CINEMANILA2003
5TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
7-24 August 2003
Greenbelt Cinemas,
Ayala Center
Screening Schedule
www.cinemanila.com.ph

		11:30 am	2:00 pm	4:30 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
Aug 13 Wednesday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	CA BAU KAN (A Courtesan) Indonesia	THE BARBECUE PEOPLE Israel	THE MISSING GUN China	PONIENTE Spain	WHALE RIDER New Zealand
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	THE TRACKER Australia	DOGVILLE Denmark (2-5pm)	1:30-3:40pm CRY FOR BOBO ([illegible]) [illegible] A NEW THING ([illegible]) [illegible] PALACE II ([illegible])	LAN YU Hong Kong	SWIMMING POOL France
Aug 14 Thursday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	BELLISSIMA Poland	HOUSE OF GUAVAS Vietnam	WAITING FOR HAPPINESS Mauritania	DIVINE INTERVENTION Palestine	24 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE United Kingdom
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	CA BAU KAN (A Courtesan) Indonesia	CITY OF GOD Brazil	SWIMMING POOL France	JELANGKUNG 1 Indonesia	BRIEF CROSSING France
Aug 15 Friday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	MADAME BROUETTE Africa	HOUSE OF GUAVAS Vietnam	CITY OF GOD Brazil	EROTIC TALES Germany	JELANGKUNG 1 Indonesia
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	EDI Poland	WAITING FOR HAPPINESS Mauritania	BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUZ France	BRIEF CROSSING France	MAYA India
Aug 16 Saturday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	DIVINE INTERVENTION Palestine	PONIENTE Spain	BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUZ France	BOB DYLAN DON'T LOOK BACK USA	SWIMMING POOL France
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	WAITING FOR HAPPINESS Mauritania	BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUZ France	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	LAN YU Hong Kong	MAYA India

Changes in the screening schedule are a result of film festival print traffic. Additional screenings to be announced later.

Bata eyes 'Masters'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THROUGH the years, Efren "Bata" Reyes has brought honor to the Philippines time and again by winning many international billiards tournaments, showing to the world that the Filipino is second to no one in this sport that requires natural talent, strong personal discipline and intelligence. Still, there is one prestigious title missing from Reyes' vast collections of trophies: the World Pool Masters crown.

On Aug. 29-31 in Holland, Hall of Famer Bata Reyes gets the golden chance to win that elusive crown when he competes in the World Pool Masters championship along with Puyat Sports' teammates Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who won the Masters title in 2001; and Canada-based Filipino sensation, Alex Pagulayan, losing finalist in the just-ended World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

"Reyes is ready," benefactor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said yesterday. "A victory in the World Pool Masters will surely be another crowning achievement in Efren's successful career as a pool pro that has not only given the country honor but also enabled him to provide his wife and children a good life and help his siblings as well." Incidentally, Reyes and Bustamante are now competing in the $50,000 International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut, US, where Reyes is the defending champion.

Sports fans figure Bata Reyes will make an impact in this year's World Pool Masters, a 9-ball tourney which is being held for the first time outside the United Kingdom.

"Reyes is a thinking player," said sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra, popular owner of multi-awarded racehorse and soon-to-come-back Wind Blown. "I admire Reyes because of his humble ways and amazing skills at the pool table. He deserves to be called "Tac Magician."

In the World Pool Masters, Reyes will trade billiards' brilliance against the world's toughest pool pros like Germans Ralf Souquet, the defending champion; and youthful Thorsten Hohmann, the reigning World Pool Championship winner. Also in the elite roster of 16 invited players are Mika Immonen (Finland), Earl Strickland (United States), Steve Davis (England), Niels Feijen, Alex Lely, Nick Van den Berg and Rick Diks (Netherlands), Tony Drago (Malta), Tom Storm and Nicholas Bergendorff (Sweden) and Ching Shun-yang (Chinese-Taipei).

RACING TIPS

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Race 1--1. Black Force 2. Rising Fast 3. Mega Money 4. Ocean menary 5. Show Affection

Race 2--1. Aprey's Choice/Aprey's Special 2. Tribeca 3. High Typhoon

Race 3--1. Alessandra 2. Divide and Rule 3. Penthouse

Race 4--1. Midnight Lady 2. Dandansoy 3. Gifted Guest 4. Cosanne

Race 5--1. Star Material 2. Triple Seven 3. Chairman of D Board 4. Time to Party 5. Pasirit

Race 6--1. Doña Gelay 2. E-Mail 3. Candy's Angel 4. Windlass/Overture 5. Love Song

Race 7--1. Musikero 2. Captain Stone 3. Letshaveaparty 4. Sovereign Dancer

Race 8--1. Dreams of Flame 2. Ginger Spice/Miss Monroe 3. Photogenic/Never My Love 4. El Magnifico 5. Currency

Race 9--1. Peek A Boo 2. Romario 3. Free Again 4. D Joy of the Wild 5. Lucky El 6. Silver Lining

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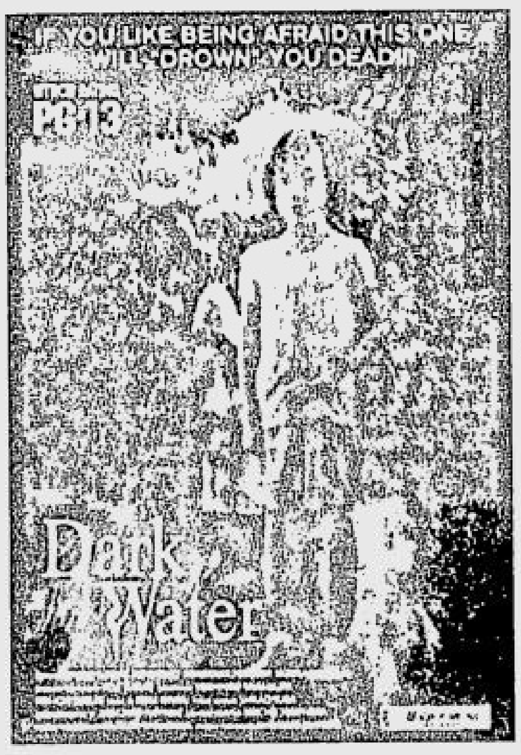
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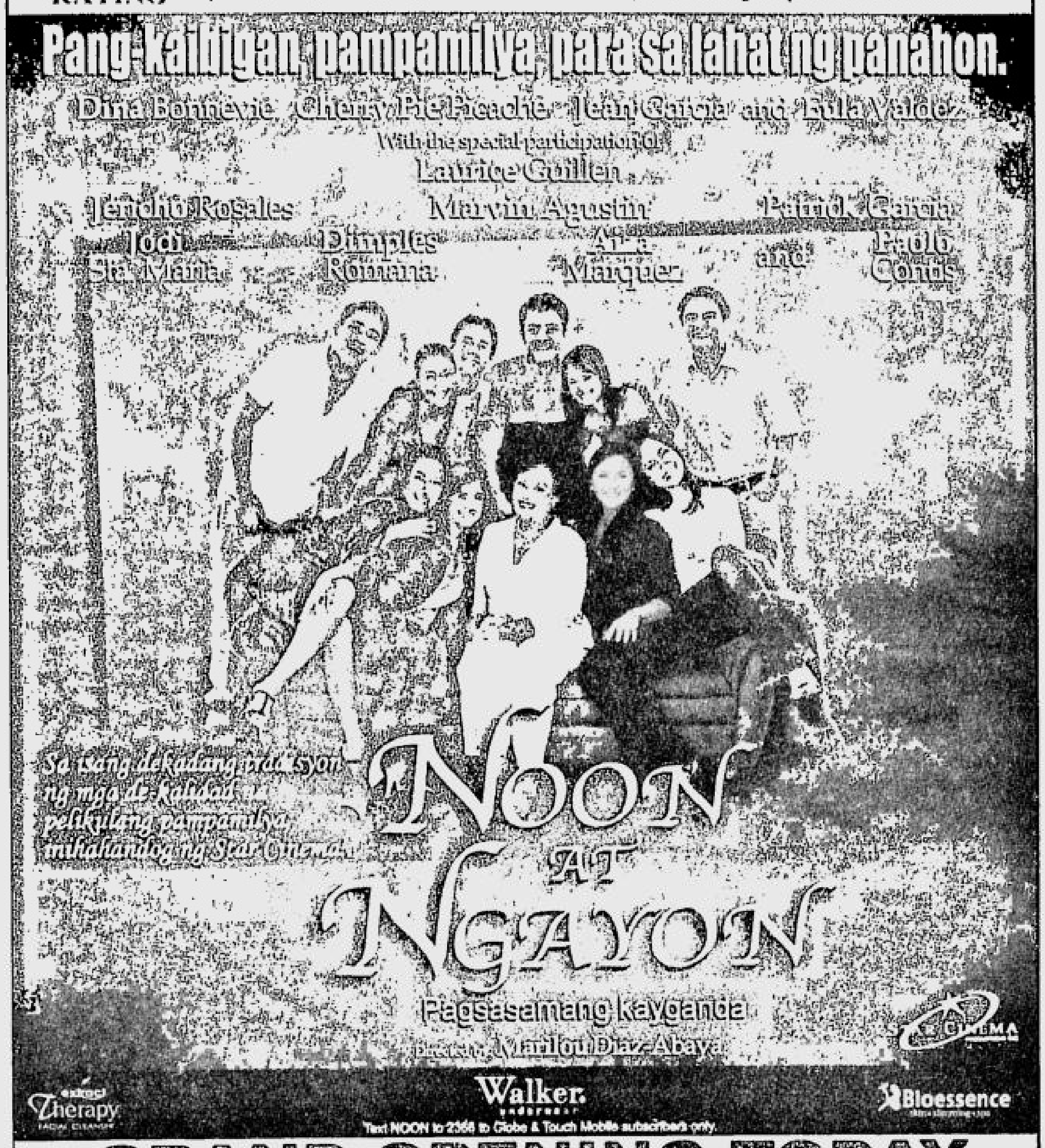
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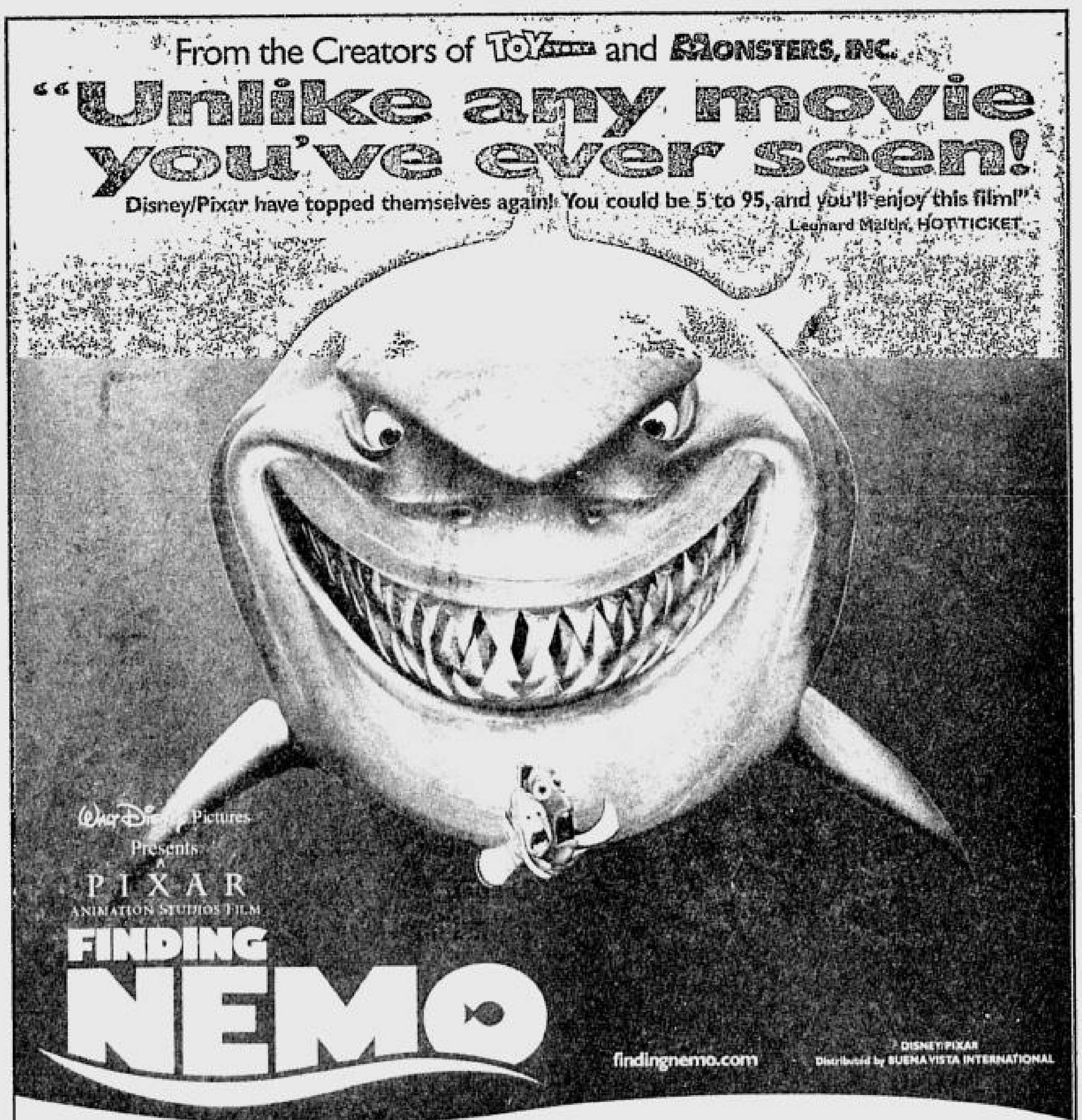
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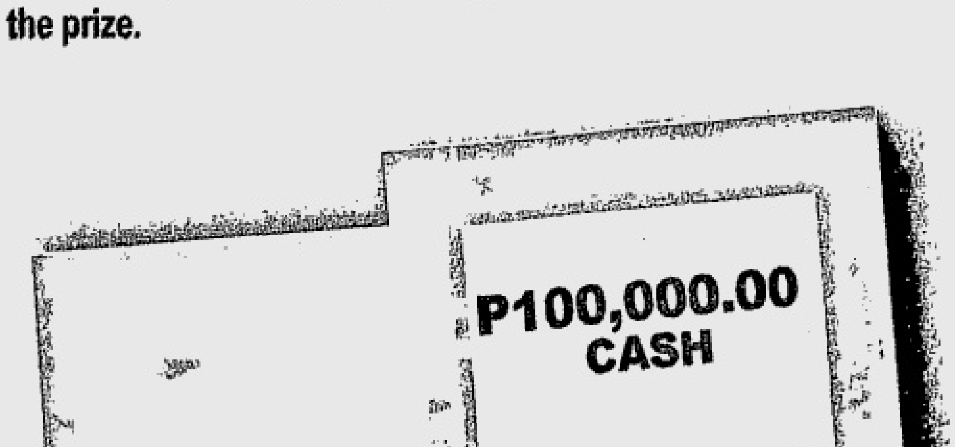

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Corregidor celebrity challenge

SHOW STOPPER

MOVIE, TV and sports stars take part in a grueling challenge to be held on the historic Corregidor Island on Sept. 5, 2003.

The Oakley Bionetwork Challenge, which mimics the reality US TV show "The Amazing Race," involves scrambling through obstacles in the island's ruins, vast network of tunnels and caves. Oakley endorsers Diether Ocampo, Victor Neri, Jake Roxas, Tricia Chiongbian, Akiko Thompson, Brad Turvey, Gaby dela Merced, Carlo Ledesma, Bobby Andrews and Nikki Romero will lead the different teams.

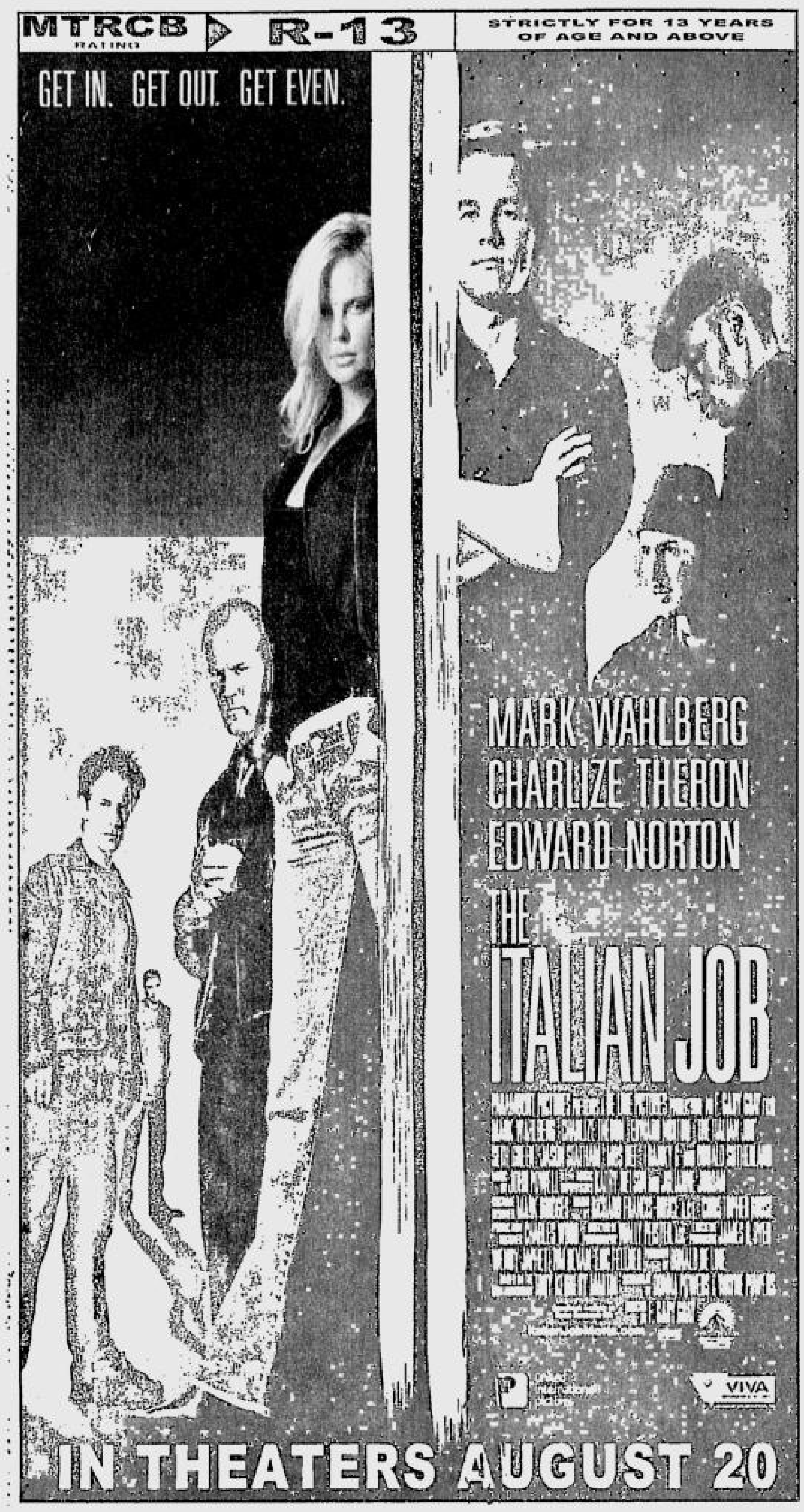
Among the 10 participants to be paired with the celebrities, five will be chosen from the media while the five others will come from among Oakley customers.

To be included in the pool, a customer will be issued a Bionetwork card upon purchase from any Oakley dealer. The card must be submitted before Aug. 15. For inquiries, call Wichcraft's Loyva Fernandez, 635-2476 or 635-6026.

Each of the five gruelling legs of the challenge will consist of route markers, crossroads, tasks and riddles.

Teams will face physical and mental challenges, which they must go through in order to reach the Hospital Ruins, the designated pit stop, where race facilitators will give a briefing on the next leg.

The pair that first completes all the five legs wins the challenge.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BAD BOYS 2 **R13** 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20	**DEBUT** **R13** 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:300	**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN** **PG13** 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

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P13

CINEMA 2 — **FINDING NEMO**
11:00, 1:10, 3:20,
5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIGLANG LIKO / YOUNG VIRGINS
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QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
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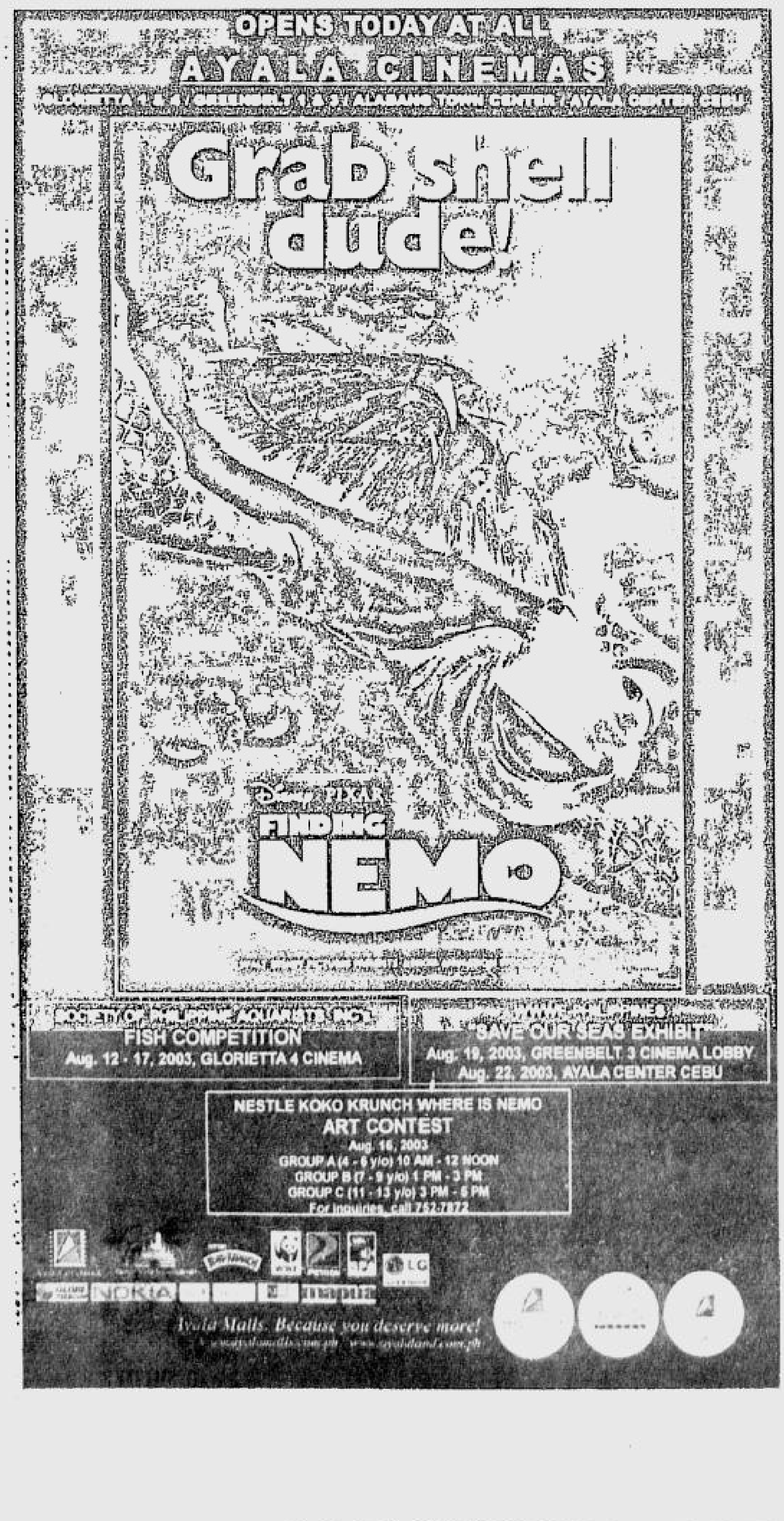
CINEMA-7	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-8	ALIPIN NG ALIW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LXG
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	DEBUT
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	NOON AT NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	LXG
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTEL
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: There's another intrigue involving you.

Guest: Oh? What?

Host: Your nude-modeling session for some top artists was a success, but another sexy star is going to pose nude for art's sake too—and she says that she will do much better than you! Any comment?

Guest: Well, anybody *naman* can nude painting, *di ba*? So she's welcome, why not?—as long as it's fund-raising!

(How—charitable!)

* * *

Host: Do you enjoy your work now?

Guest: Of course! My job is excited!

(Good for your job!)

* * *

Newscaster: *Ngayon, mga* news flash from abroad: News flash—*inimbento*, rowboat *na pating sa Inglatera*!

(Please please repeat?)

* * *

Host: What's the aftermath of the recent coup, as you see it?

Co-host: Well, for one thing, the police have become normal once again.

(Well, it's about time!)

* * *

Host: What is the secret of your outstanding success?

Guest: First of all, don't worry, don't hurry, it will come in God's own time. You must have patient!

(Yes, doctor!)

* * *

Host: Any other tips?

Guest: Next, you should know where you want to go, very clearly. You should have an overall overview!

(*Really* over!)

* * *

Host: What's the traffic update now out there on Edsa?

Field reporter: *Wala*, give up *na ang mga* traffic enforcer. *Tagalagang* super *ma*-traffic *na ngayon dito*!

(*Ay, tagalagang!*)

* * *

Newscaster: More world news: In the Middle East, the big policy dispute there is over the American victims of the guerrilla war. But troops are still needed there, despite the danger to their lives, because of the pressing need to maintain US presence in the Iraq-torn country.

(In the—what?)

* * *

Host: What are your committee's findings after the long study you undertook about this controversial case?

Guest: After our very careful study of the principal personalities involved in this case, we have come to the conclusion that everybody seems to have a background!

(What a monumental discovery!)

'Tara, Tena'

SEN. LOREN Legarda hosts ABS-CBN's new drama anthology, "Tara, Tena," which features inspiring stories for the family audience in general, and for young viewers in particular.

The show urges viewers to act on their dreams, and promotes Filipino values, the power of which has been eroded through the years.

Episodes are directed by **Leo Rialp, Malou Sevilla, Erick Salud** and **John-D Lazatin**, and written by **Richard Reynante, Agnes Gagilonia-Uligan, Joel Mercado, Chris Violago** and **Dang Sulit**.

Audition period extended

YOUTH bands with members aged 16 to 35 years old have until Sept. 27 to audition for "Band-ing sa Riverbanks," a concert which will be held on Nov. 8 at Riverbanks Center, Marikina City.

The extension of the audition period seeks to encourage more youth bands to join the event. For rules and other details, call Campus Ministry—Ministry for Youth Affairs at 735-3390, or visit its office at 2486 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila.

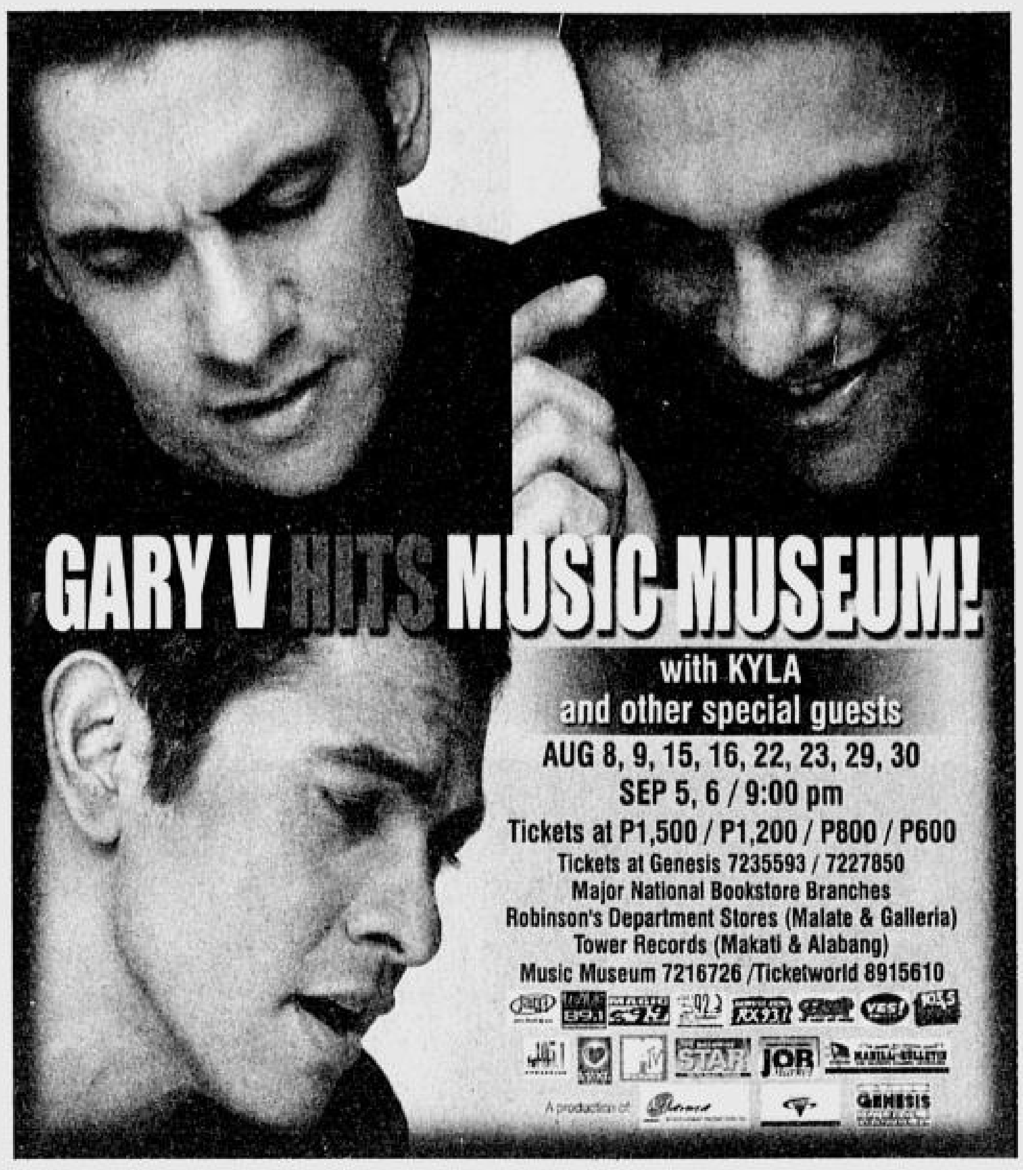
Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 2	NAKED WEAPON
Ali 3	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 7	FINDING NEMO

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 16	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"



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A production of

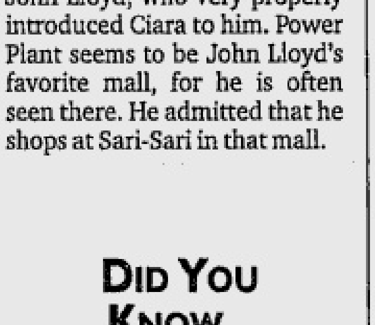
On a recent Tuesday afternoon, **Rica Peralejo** and boyfriend **Bernard Palanca** were seen together at the Power Plant Mall of Rockwell in Makati. They bumped into another pair of young stars, **Richard Gutierrez** and **Ann Curtis**, who were holding hands. Days earlier, the same eyewitness saw **John Lloyd Cruz** and his girlfriend **Ciara Sotto** at Power Plant's Seattle's Best coffee bar. The eyewitness happens to know John Lloyd, who very properly introduced Ciara to him. Power Plant seems to be John Lloyd's favorite mall, for he is often seen there. He admitted that he shops at Sari-Sari in that mall.

DID YOU KNOW...

New 'prince of R&B' performs at Arkdia

SHOW TIME

ARKDIA Bar in Malate will present Jay R, who, this early, is being dubbed "Prince of R & B," on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 9 p.m.



JAY R

Jay R has just released his very first album, "Game face," produced by NU Life of USA and released in the Philippines by Universal Records.

Jay R's audience is getting bigger and bigger as he is a regular part of the Sunday noontime show, "S.O.P." on GMA 7.

The new singer's real name is Jay R Sillona. He was born and raised in the United States, and his parents Jun and Ampy Aquino Sillona have always encouraged him to be a musical artist.

Jay R started performing since childhood. At age 13, he was already a member of a band.

Tickets to the Arkdia show are P300 each, including one standard drink. Tickets are available at the gate, or call Arkdia at 400-9974 or 404-1087.

Sponsors of the Arkdia show are Universal Records, Jag, No Curfew, PLDT, San Miguel Light and Libieresse.

SkyCable channel . . .

From page A30

within the Philippines any motion picture not duly authorized and passed by the Board."

Laguardia ordered SkyCable to explain in writing why no legal action should be taken against the cable operator.

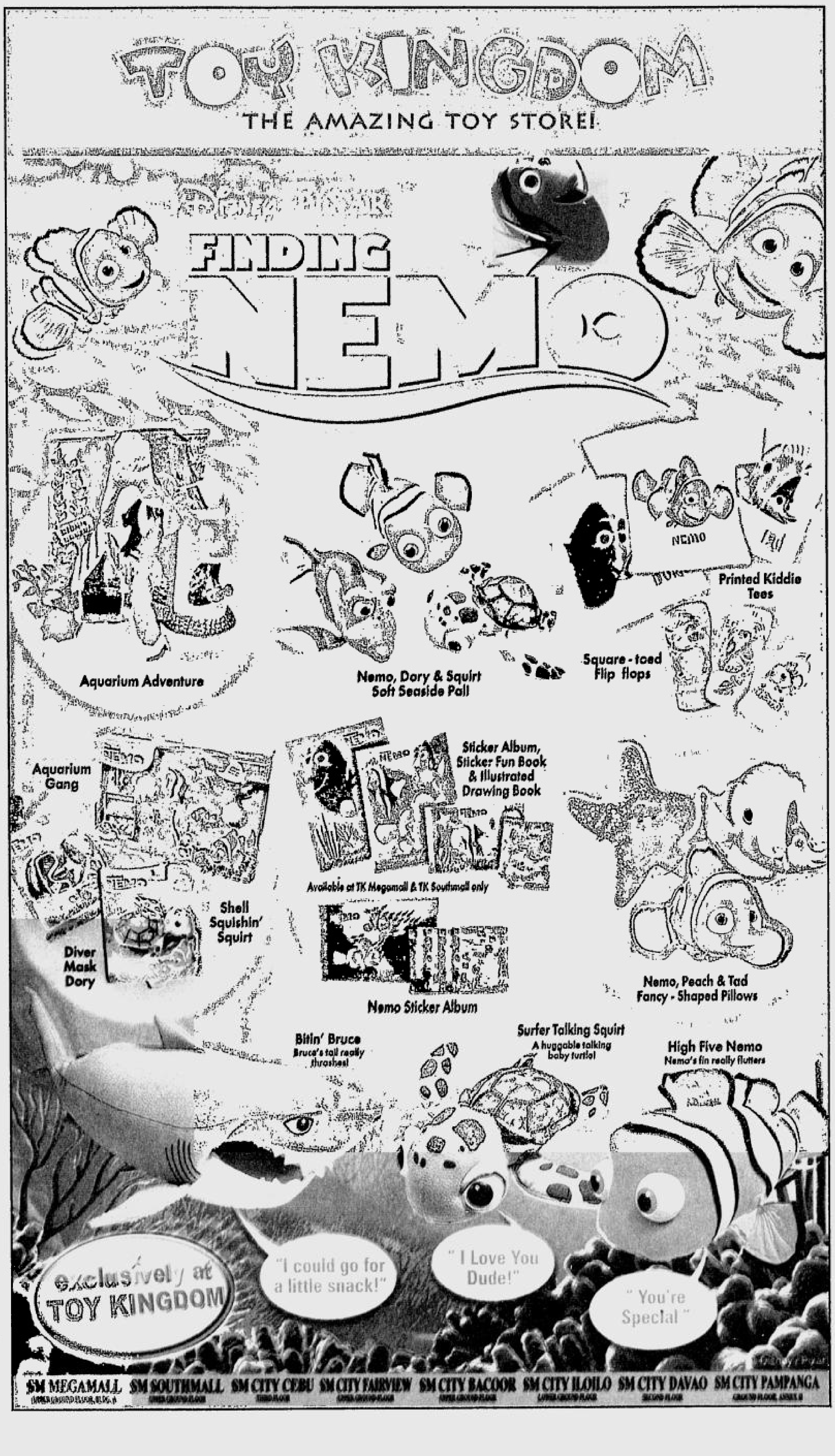
Ramirez, in a letter to the MTRCB, said SkyCable has taken the necessary steps "to investigate and rectify" the incident.

"We are basically in the business of re-transmitting programs legitimately sourced locally and internationally either by satellite or fiber optic-link," Ramirez wrote.

"Thus, it would be greatly difficult for us to immediately screen, edit and/or censor such programs as the signal is received and directly fed into our cable television system."

The sanction against Cinema One followed the 20-day suspension of two cable channels operated by Cablelink Inc. for showing lewd programs between midnight and 1:30 p.m.

Cablelink cut off the air Channel 42, the Japanese movie channel, and Channel 46 (Star Channel 1) starting July 25 after the operator received complaints from the MTRCB as well as from subscribers in Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Taguig and Cavite.



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Editor Louie C. Camino

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SkyCable channel faces 20-day suspension for sexy show

By Marinel R. Cruz

A CABLE channel operated by SkyCable is facing a 20-day suspension for showing a Filipino movie that contains sex scenes and frontal nudity last month, according to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

A three-member investigating committee found SkyCable's Channel 22 (Cinema One) to have violated the MTRCB implementing rules and regulations for airing, at 4:30 p.m. on July 30, "Sisa," including "indecent sex scenes which only cater to the prurient interest of the audience," said an MTRCB memorandum.

MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia said the committee was set to meet with SkyCable manager Edgardo Ramirez last Tuesday to give him the suspension order.

In a letter addressed to Ramirez, Laguardia said the showing of the sexy footage violated the MTRCB's "General Audience" and "Parental Guidance" classifications for television.

SkyCable also violated Section 7 of Presidential Decree No. 1986 when it aired "Sisa" without first securing a permit from the MTRCB, Laguardia said.

The memo pointed out that PD 1986 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to exhibit or cause to be exhibited by television

SKYCABLE/ A29

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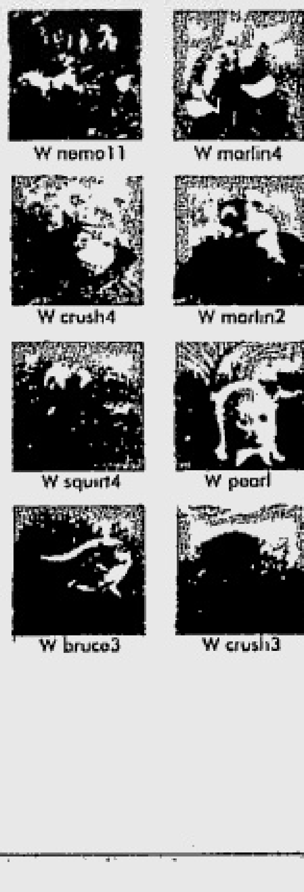
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W marlin4
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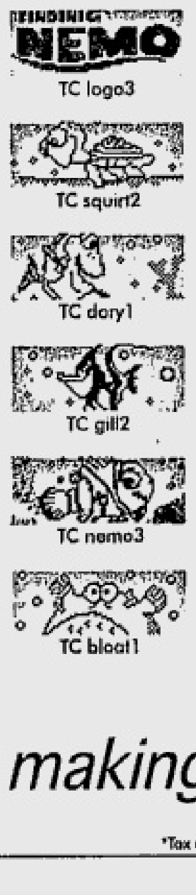
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TC squirt2
TC dory1
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TC nemo3
TC bloat1

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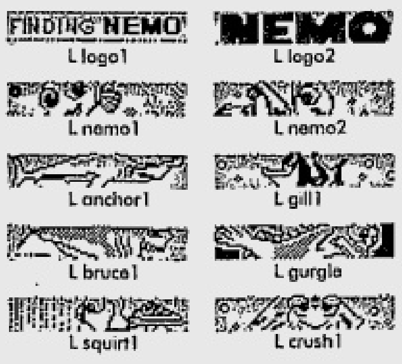
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L logo2
L nemo1
L nemo2
L anchor1
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L bruce1
L gurgle
L squirt1
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Options

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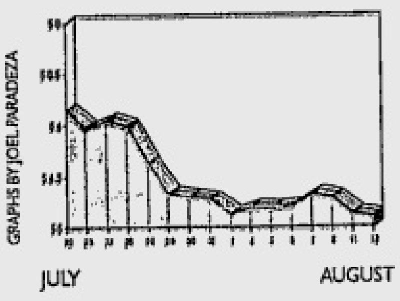

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2003

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on lifting of state of rebellion

STOCKS rose yesterday as worries about political stability eased after the government on Monday lifted a state of rebellion it had imposed for 16 days after a mutiny by renegade troops on July 27.

But analysts said gains were limited as players remained wary.

"The lifting of the state of rebellion offered a slight relief. But it's not good enough to revert the market to a bullish state," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index rose for the fourth straight session, ending 9.93 points or 0.8 percent higher at 1,247.93. It is up 22.5 percent since the start of the year.

Turnover rose to P344.6 million from Monday's P289.4 million.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the peso's decline to nearly five-month lows was due to legitimate demand, but declined to say whether it intervened in the market.

The peso was quoted at 54.90/93 to $1 in morning trading yesterday, a level last seen in March. It hit a intra-day low of 54.97 before closing at at 54.89 to $1. Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System reached $143.15 million.

"We're watching the market," Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said yesterday.

He said the renewed pressure on the peso, which fell to a low of 54.935 to the dollar in early morning trade from Monday's close at 54.87, was due to demand from oil companies and corporations. Seasonal demand from importers building up their inventory for the Christmas season has also been exerting pressure on the local currency.

"We've also seen some banks selling. There is two-way trade," Tetangco said.

Investors have also been rattled by a failed mutiny by more than 300 elite soldiers in the Makati financial district last July 27. The government, which lifted a state of rebellion on Monday, said the uprising was the front end of an attempted coup.

The peso hit a low of 55.16 to a dollar in March, as it was swamped by worries about the economy and possible ratings downgrades.

It hit a record low of 55.75 in January 2001 amid the turmoil of then President Estrada's forced exit during a military-backed popular revolt. The local currency has hardly recovered since then.

TETANGCO

Christy Tan, an analyst at 4Cast Ltd., said in a note that rumors of central bank dollar selling above the 55-to-$1 mark might moderate aggressive dollar buying.

But Tan said the "bid tone will likely persist in the near term as importer (dollar) demand gathers steam and as local investment sentiment stays dampened after the latest coup attempt".

"Domestic pessimism has overwhelmed any positives from prospects of improved budget deficit data," Tan said, adding that the peso might break above 55 in coming sessions.

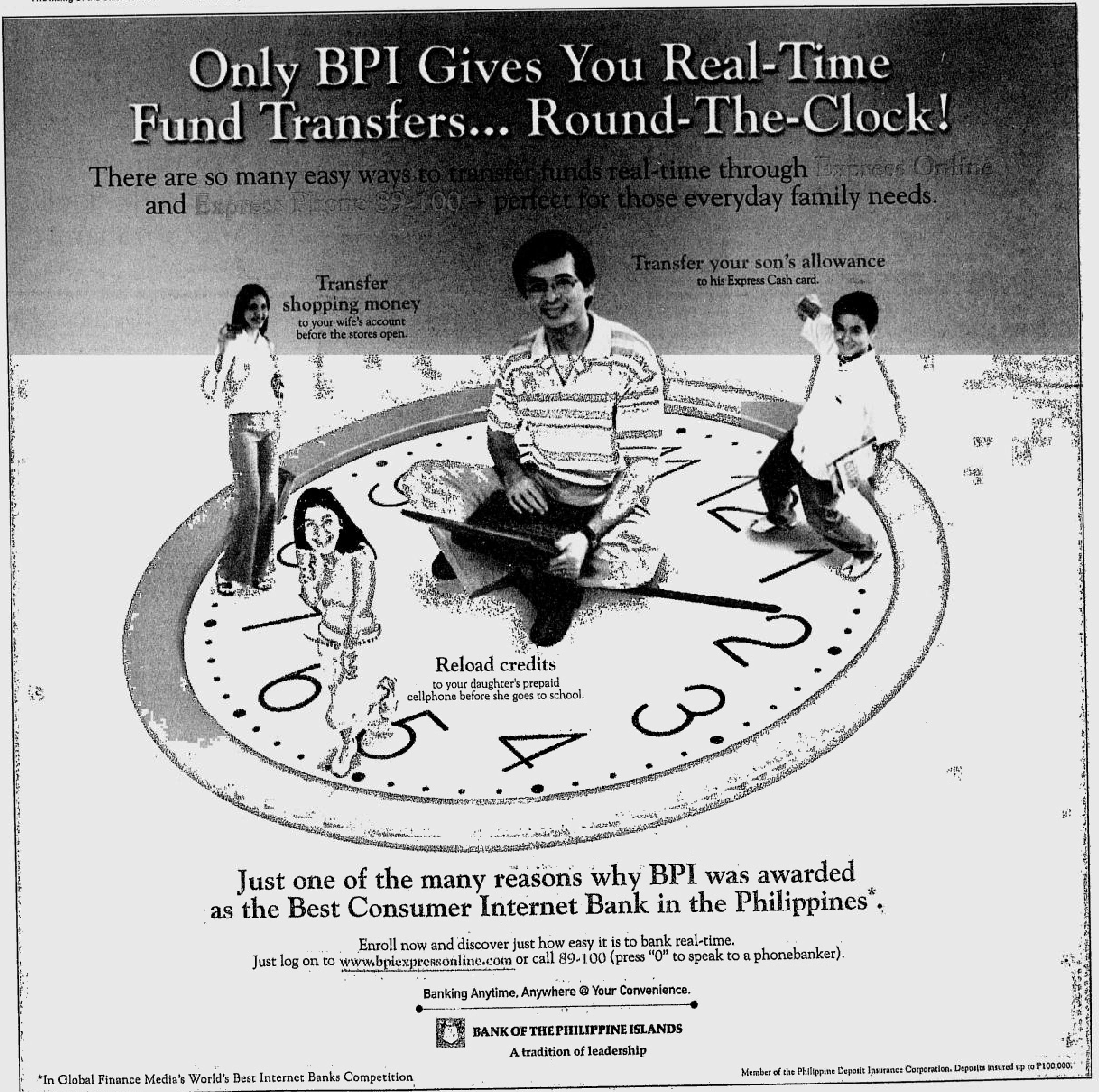
Meantime, the four-year Treasury bonds fetched a coupon rate of 10 percent at the auction yesterday, lower than the 10.625 percent at the last sale of the original series paper in May.

The Bureau of Treasury awarded the full P3 billion worth of the paper on offer after tenders reached P8.29 billion. The government will use the proceeds to help fund its budget deficit.

Before the auction, debt traders had seen the coupon rate at around 9.875 percent but warned the Treasury might repeat its recent rejection of bids.

The Treasury halted auctions of T-bills and T-bonds last week due to premiums being demanded after a failed mutiny by renegade soldiers on July 27.

With a report from Reuters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POOR MARKET CONDITION

Cebu Pacific shelves IPO plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

GOKONGWEI

CEBU Pacific Inc., an international and domestic airline controlled by the Gokongwei family, has put on hold indefinitely its plan to undertake an initial public offering due to poor market conditions.

Cebu Pacific president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei told reporters recently that until market conditions improved, the IPO would not be undertaken as this would be detrimental to the interests of the company.

"The IPO is dictated by the market. I don't think there is a market for it right now. You cannot force the market when it is not there," Gokongwei pointed out.

In 1991, Cebu Pacific was granted by Congress a franchise to operate and maintain passenger and cargo airline with Cebu City as its base.

Under section 9 of its franchise or the provision on public equity participation, Cebu Pacific is required to offer to the public at least 30 percent of its common stock within 10 years from the effectivity of the franchise.

Cebu Pacific, a unit of Gokongwei's JG Summit Holdings Inc., should have done the IPO two years ago based on the condition of its franchise. However, the lackluster performance of the local stock market has discouraged many groups from going public to raise capital.

Even oil and energy firms that are also required to go public have dragged their feet on pushing through with their respective IPOs.

At present, Cebu Pacific serves cities all over the country and regional destinations that including Hong Kong and South Korea. Last October, it offered direct flight to Singapore but was temporarily suspended due to low passenger traffic.

Cebu Pacific's market share as of July 15, 2003 was placed at 34.5 percent in the routes that it was serving. This was almost three percentage points higher than its market share a year ago.

The airline is set to carry its 10 millionth revenue passenger this August, a little more than five months after its seventh anniversary.

Initially averaging a million passengers a year in its first three years of its operations, Cebu Pacific's load rose sharply on its fourth year, when it hit the 4-millionth mark three months shy of its fourth year. The airline's 6-millionth mark was hit just two months after it turned five. On Valentine's Day this year, the airline flew its nine millionth revenue passenger, one month before its seventh anniversary.

PM HOWARD ON REGIONAL SECURITY
Australian Prime Minister John Howard (center) converses with ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin (left) and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Eduardo Ermita before a luncheon forum sponsored by the Asia Society Philippine Foundation. The prime minister, who was the forum's guest speaker, talked about Australia and the Philippines working on regional security.

NTC to lift ban on high-band Internet access

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is set to issue a set of guidelines to govern the deployment of wireless Internet access using the 2.4 gigahertz band, effectively lifting the ban on the service's deployment in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon.

NTC common carrier authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios said in an interview yesterday that the issuance of the new memorandum circular, most likely by next week, would clear up some of the gray areas in the commercial deployment of wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) services.

"I don't see any more major obstacles that can stop the issuance of the (memorandum circular)," he said.

Legality issues were raised a couple of months ago when Cabarios said commercial Wi-Fi deployment in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon was "illegal" under a 1930s law.

Under current NTC regulations, Wi-Fi could not be deployed within the service areas of power distribution firm Manila Electric Co. as the 2.4-GHz frequency band to which Wi-Fi belonged was currently being used by the Lopez-led firm for internal communications.

This revelation gave way to two well-attended public hearings that were conducted to come up with guidelines that would allow commercial Wi-Fi deployment in these areas but with certain limitations.

Under the draft circular, all wireless local access network (WLAN) and consumer radio frequency (CRF) devices should "strictly operate in a non-interference basis."

CRF devices refer to those using radio frequencies including WLAN cards, WLAN-enabled laptop computers, bluetooth-enabled mobile phones and laptops and personal digital assistants (PDAs).

Indoor radio equipment, or those that have a coverage of within a 400-meter radius, and CRF devices should have an effective radiated power (ERP) of not exceeding 100 milliwatts to prevent interference.

"This way, Meralco and all existing networks are protected from interference," Cabarios said.

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Piltel cuts losses by 73%

By Abigail L. Ho

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. has trimmed its net loss by 73 percent in the first half to P535 million from about P2 billion in the same period last year, due to higher gross revenue and lower operating costs.

Gross revenue went up by 11 percent to almost P4.4 billion in the six-month period from less than P4 billion in the same period last year.

Piltel's revenue growth was fueled by the continued strong performance of the company's global system for mobile communications (GSM) business through its Talk 'N Text brand.

Revenue from GSM grew 19 percent to P3.9 billion from P3.3 billion last year.

As a result, GSM revenue now accounts for around 90 percent of Piltel's overall subscriber revenue.

Talk 'N Text is currently the country's third largest cellular service provider with a subscriber base of 2,220,236 subscribers as of end-June, 38 percent higher than last year's 1,612,420 subscribers.

Piltel also has 50,254 landline subscribers.

While Piltel remained in the red, it posted a positive operating income for the first time in almost five years.

For the first semester, the company generated an operating income of P54.1 million, compared with last year's operating loss of almost P1.7 billion.

"This marks the first time Piltel has reported a positive operating income since September 1998. We are pleased to note the improved operating results and significant reduction in Piltel's net loss and we look forward to continuing this positive trend throughout this year and beyond," Piltel president and chief executive Gregorio Atienza said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The company was able to pull off a turnaround in operating income because of higher revenue and lower operating costs.

Net operating revenue rose 13 percent to more than P1.9 billion during the first half from P1.7 billion in the same period in 2002.

Operating costs went down by 44 percent from P3.4 billion during the January-to-June period last year to only P1.9 billion. The decline was attributed to an 83-percent reduction in depreciation costs as a result of the write-down of additional Piltel assets in end-2002.

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New company to absorb Unioil's Wincorp shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLICLY listed Unioil Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. will spin off its stake in ailing subsidiary Westmont Investment Corp. in order to clean up its own books.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Unioil said its board of directors had approved the sale of its shares in the wholly owned investment house to a new company to be formed soon.

"This is being done to address the problem of the capital deficiency of Unioil which is primarily due to the financial condition of its wholly owned subsidiary Wincorp," the company said.

Wincorp was earlier accused of lending about P7 billion pooled from over 1,000 Westmont Bank (now known as United Overseas Bank following the buyout of local shareholders) depositors to 20 cash-strapped companies.

"After this exercise, Wincorp will cease to be a subsidiary of Unioil and the latter will no longer have any capital deficiency ,"it added.

The new company's shares will be assigned to all Unioil shareholders in proportion to their interest.

Wincorp is a wholly owned unit of Unioil Resources and Holdings Corp., which itself is owned by the Cua family of ACL Development Corp., Exequiel Robles of Sta. Lucia Realty Corp., Manuel Tan of Pearlbank Securities Inc., John Espiritu of Ebecom Holdings and lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr.

HOW TO SELL *your* BRAND WITHOUT *hiring a* CELEBRITY

By Dickie Soriano

It's a common problem that most businesses face: sales are down or not how you want them to be. If your business is big enough, you turn the problem over to an advertising agency, which will give you the typical advice: spend lots of money on advertising so you can get awareness. Then your problems will magically disappear. Sales will go through the roof. Your inventory will move. Your brand will be famous. And if you spend enough to get a celebrity endorser, you may even end up being on a first-name basis with a famous star.

Great scenario, except for a few things:

- Few companies want to spend lots of money (if they even have it in the first place).
- Awareness doesn't magically translate to sales.
- If after spending all that money your sales don't move, you won't get a refund.
- Honestly, how important is it for your business that you're on a first-name basis with a celebrity?

SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Having a business of my own and also being currently employed in one of the country's leading advertising agencies, I am in a peculiar position. Fortunately, I also work in a peculiar industry: direct marketing. Also known as database marketing, loyalty marketing, or customer relationship marketing.

TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA ON WHAT IT IS, YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT'S NOT.

Direct marketing is not going house to house and knocking on doors to sell vacuum cleaners or plastic containers. It's not recruiting people, who will recruit people, who will recruit people, who will then sell P3,000 boxes of tea. It's definitely not putting leaflets in windshield wipers of parked cars.

THEN WHAT IS IT, REALLY?

Direct marketing, simply put, is the art and the science of identifying individual prospects and customers by using data culled from databases, communicating to them using relevant media with the goal of stirring enough reason and emotion to make them part with their money, and then measuring results based on sales and returns on investment.

NOT ALL YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE EQUAL

Most businesses have a philosophy that a customer is always right, and that every customer is a profitable customer. But a hard look at your customer database (if you keep one) will probably tell you something else. In all likelihood 20% of your customers give you 80% of your revenue. Your most profitable customers are also the ones most likely to buy your new products; BMW owners, for example, are typically the first ones who will snap up the newest BMW models in the market.

A database, if designed properly, would allow you to identify similarities among your best customers--thereby helping you target more people like them.

To help Unicef raise badly-needed funds for Filipino children in need, we wanted to find out what kind of people tend to give to charity. Our research showed that in France, Catholic grandmothers were more likely to donate to a direct mail charity appeal than any other segment. That insight helped us identify the likely targets. But in the Philippines, everyone is pretty much Catholic and half the population is below 18. So, instead, Unicef tested various lists, and found out that females are more likely to donate than males, but males tend to donate larger amounts.

The ability to learn (and apply the learning to the next campaign) is one of the benefits I enjoy most in direct marketing. Should there be an argument about which segment to target, which offer to use, or which creative material to send out, the argument can be settled by testing and evaluating the results.

THE SECRET TO GETTING MORE WHILE SPENDING LESS

If you want to find out more about how to make bigger profits from your marketing efforts, attend the 3rd Philippine Direct Marketing Forum on August 26 and 27, 2003 at Shangri-la Hotel in Makati. A host of direct marketing professionals from all over Asia will be speaking on the latest trends in direct marketing, the tried-and tested strategies, as well as the best practices in the Philippines and the region. For more information, you can call the DM Forum Secretariat at 813-2732 or 813-2703 and ask for Jenny. You may also send an email to dmforum@edsamall.com.ph or visit www.dmforum.net.

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About the author: Dickie Soriano is the founder and president of BCD Pinpoint and managing director of OgilvyOne Worldwide. He can be reached at dickie.soriano@bcdpinpoint.com

East of nowhere

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

MONEY has eroded the long-standing family ties between the Madrigals and the Tantocos of the failed East Asia Capital and the hapless holders of commercial papers issued by the collapsed investment house.

Now, despite friendship that harks back to his parents' days, Makati Medical Center administrator Fernando Fores has filed an estafa complaint against the directors/officers of East Asia in what increasingly looks like a quixotic attempt to recover his family's investment.

And, in another sign of increasing hardball tactics, the East Asia de buena familia directors have counter-sued with libel against the complaining creditors, for allegedly soiling their good names when the investors issued news releases/statements to press their outstanding claims.

Between 1996 and 1999, Fores placed about P4.5 million in East Asia Capital, savings he was holding for his daughters Sarina and Grace.

The extended Maria Luisa Hilado/Carmen Villarama/Christina Cabunag/Jose Perez family also plunked down a total of P31.2 million, while the Loyola School of Technology and the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People entrusted P10.7 million of donated money, attracted no doubt by the blue-chip names behind the investment house and the above-market returns being offered by its traders.

Alas, what is going against the complainants is that none of them had been issued commercial papers as proof of their placements; instead, what they had been giv-

COCKTALES/ B4

San Miguel gets P5-B loan for recycling project

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. has secured a P5-billion loan from a syndicate of 11 creditors to bankroll a recycling facility that would produce environment-friendly packaging materials.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SMC said the five-year loan would be provided by the creditors using their respective availments under the Environment Infrastructure Support Credit Program II of the state-owned wholesale lender Development Bank of the Philippines.

The DBP's program, in turn, is being funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

DBP itself contributed P900 million to the facility while the other participating creditors were Citibank N.A., Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Metrobank, Security Bank, International Exchange Bank, China Bank, ING Bank NV, Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank, Misuho Corporate Bank Ltd.-Manila branch and Orix Metro Leasing & Finance Corp.

"The proceeds of the loan shall be used by SMC to finance the construction of certain plants and facilities and acquisition of machinery for

SAN MIGUEL/ B4

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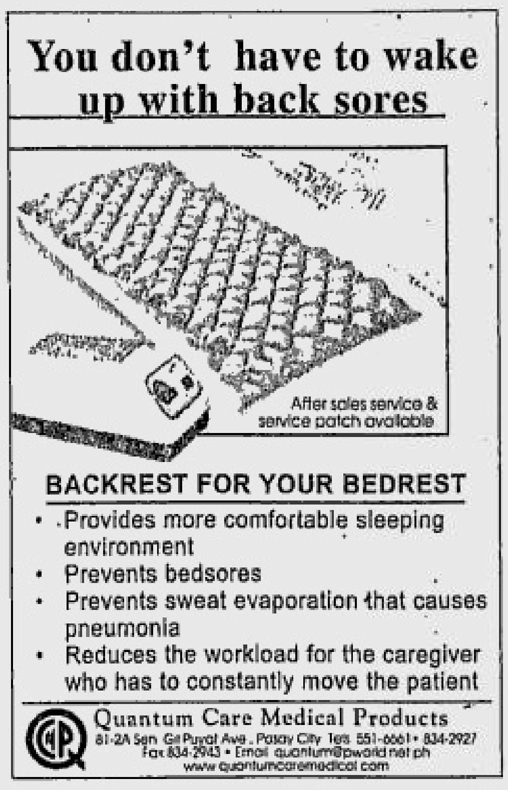
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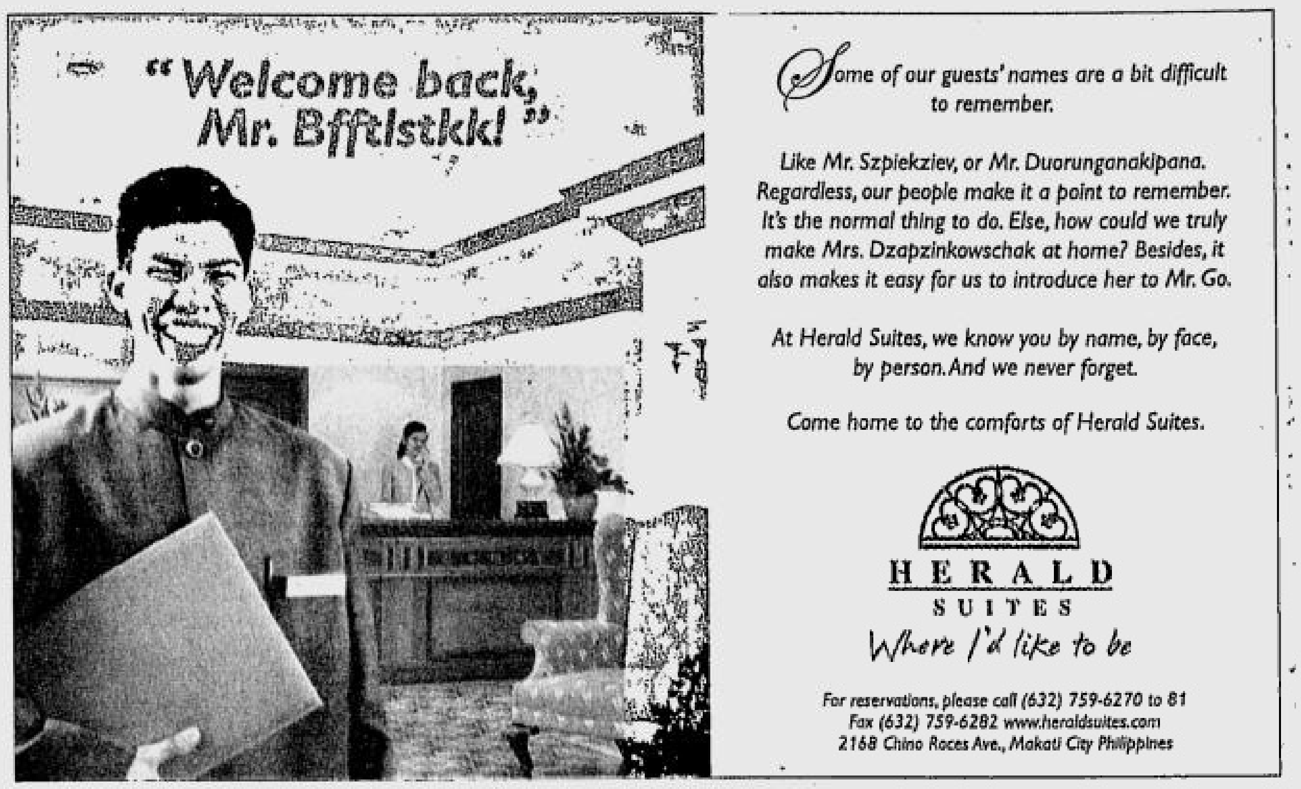
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DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
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$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
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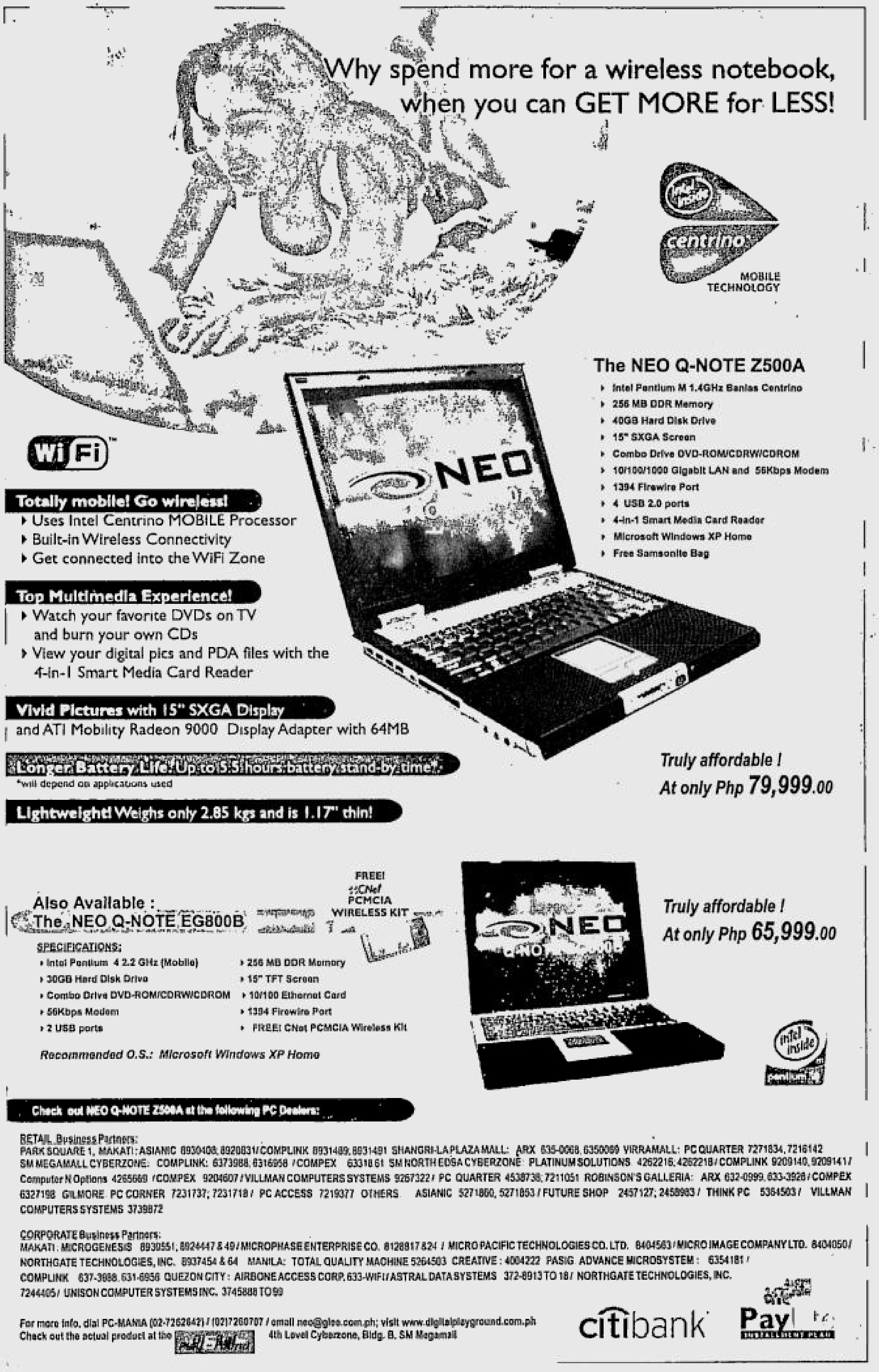
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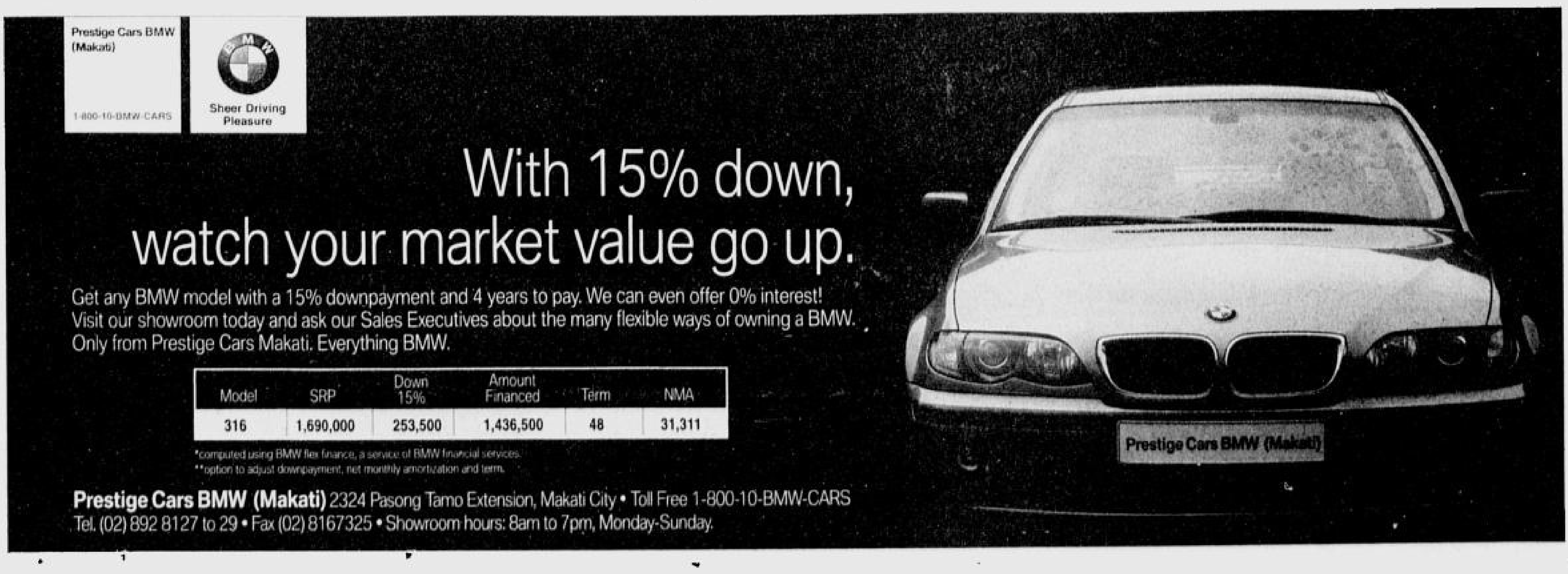
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ODA disbursement improving, says Neda

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is making better use of official development assistance (ODA) made available by multilateral and bilateral lenders for various infrastructure projects, according to the 11th annual ODA portfolio review of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The Neda announced in a statement yesterday that the government had disbursed a total of $1.035 billion worth of ODA last year or $27.5 million higher than the $1.007 billion in 2001.

"This reflects a significant improvement in the country's capacity to use up project loans," the Neda said.

During the period, there was a 12-percent expansion in the disbursement in project loans.

However, the disbursement in program loans—or those tied up to certain conditions that usually involve structural reforms—sharply dropped to $100 million from $173.4 in 2001.

In the meantime, the disbursements of loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) recorded an all-time high of 72 billion yen during its fiscal year ending March 2002.

However, the rate of disbursement of JBIC loans in 2002 fell to 59 percent, compared with the 62 percent rate recorded in 2001. This refers to actual cumulative disbursement as against the scheduled disbursements of all project loans from the start of implementation up to December 2002. This indicator captures the historical performance of a project from the start to completion.

"This means that while disbursements had been increasing, the increase was not enough to eliminate past backlogs," the Neda said.

The government has come up with various measures to address key implementation issues hindering the smooth implementation of projects funded by ODAs, such as budget cover, procurement, right-of-way acquisition and resettlement, local government participation mainly through the Project Implementation Officers system, the Neda said.

ADB seen extending technical assistance to SEC

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ASIAN Development Bank plans to provide technical assistance to the Securities and Exchange Commission to enhance the government agency's ability to develop the local capital market and reform the non-banking financial sector.

Under its proposed technical assistance package, the ADB would pay for and provide the SEC with consultants to map out a medium-term (three to five years) and long-term (10 years) strategy for the development of the capital markets and NBF sector.

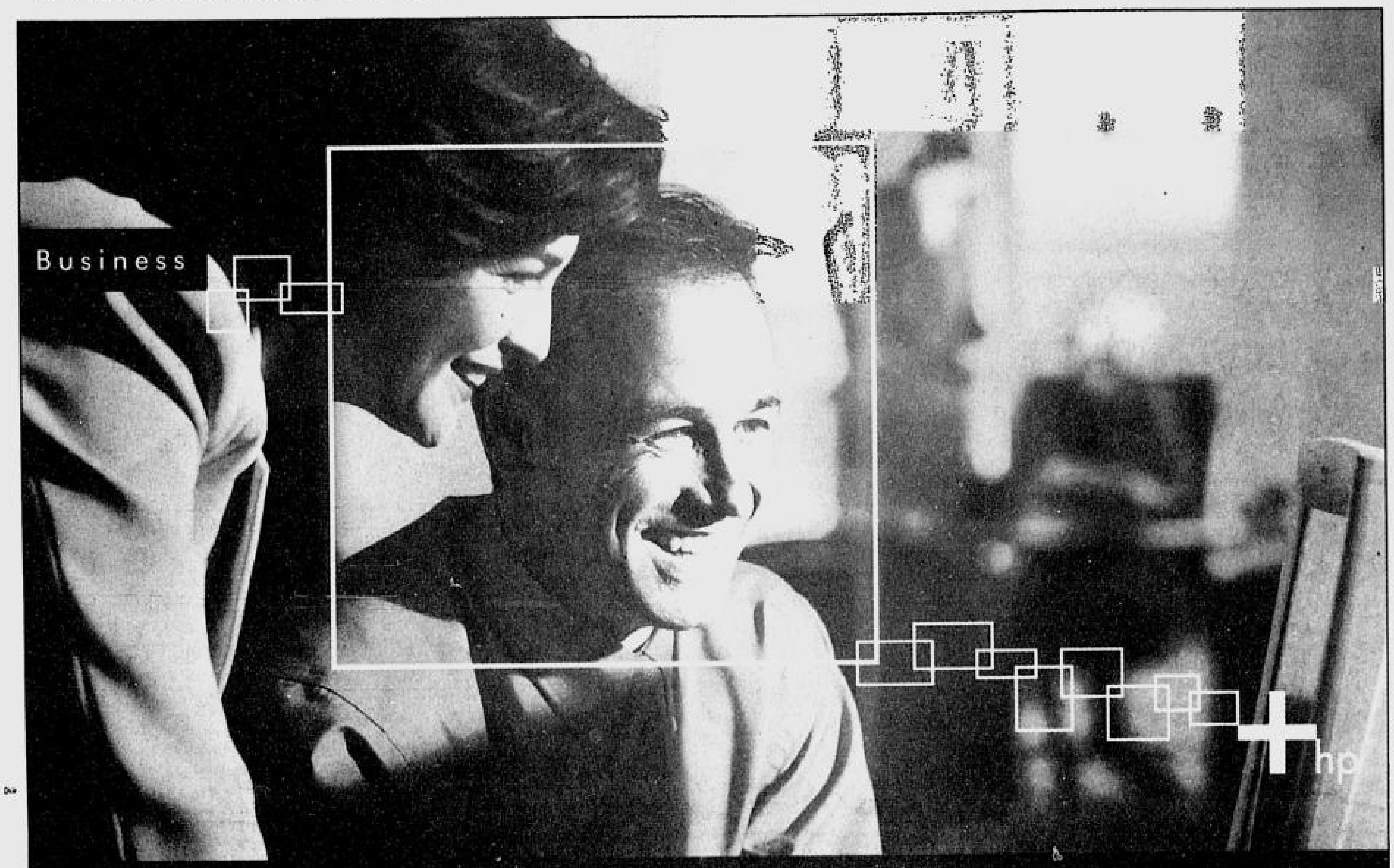
The consultants will also assist the SEC in establishing a high level Regulatory Council to harmonize prudential and regulatory standards and supervision practices.

The assistance may also be extended to helping the government consider the need for the creation of a single regulator for the NBF sector.

The ADB also hopes to assist the SEC in crafting regulations for risk-based capital standards for securities broker-dealers and investments houses, taking into account international best practices.

The assistance can also be used to help the SEC review the adequacy of protection schemes for securities investors and pre-need policy holders in the event of the insolvency of a broker, dealer or underwriter registered with the SEC.

Also, the ADB will provide experts to assist the SEC in drafting amendments to laws and regulations, as appropriate, to strengthen investor protection and/or eliminate unnecessary constraints on the competitiveness and development of the capital markets and non-bank sector.



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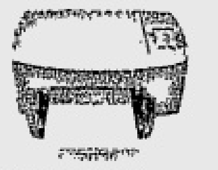

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Cocktales . . .

From page B3

en and are holding onto are "transaction confirmation letters."

Scraps of papers, in other words.

Mandarin mantra: Eat, eat, eat

THE NEWLY renovated coffee shop of the Mandarin is packed during lunch and dinners these days, and it is the extensive buffet selection, what else, that is attracting the droves.

Remember when Shangri-La Makati opened, and its morning-noon-nighttime buffet created so much buzz among food lovers? Well, Mandarin takes the competition to a higher level.

If you love fresh oysters and you're a salad person—the greens are crisp, and the oysters look like they have just been plucked right off the sea—dig in, folks. Careful on the desserts, though!

And if you are a carnivore, loosen your belt before you attack the prime rib and chops selection.

Mandarin has just quietly raised the lunch buffet price to under P1,000/head, from the under P900 opening price. With a glass of wine and taxes, the bill could easily reach P1,500/person, a little heavy on the wallet.

Just think of the expense, and the rewarding gustatory experience, as an anti-traffic, anti-mutiny, anti-bad politics antidote.

Ticket to mutiny

CEBU Pacific's internal investigation as to the reported wholesale purchase of airline tickets by Mindanao-based military mutineers has hit the investigators' blank wall.

Unlike the Magdalo flags that were bought in one bloc, the airline tickets were individually purchased in the names of the Magdalo officers and soldiers in flying to Manila, said Cebu Pacific CEO Lance Gokongwei.

But the billionaire heir was quick to distance the business from any possible suspicion. "I'd like to believe the soldiers patronized us because of our on-time record and competitive fares," Gokongwei said.

Tougher US checks

IN addition to the no-transit visa, no-passage rule, the US airports have since last week mandated a more thorough inspection of all electronic gadgets whether checked-in or hand-carried by passengers.

Remote keyless door/lock openers and automatic camera-flash attachments now also receive similar scrutiny as CD players, laptop computers, cell phones, and radios. These inspections, not really new to Philippine passengers of Northwest Airlines, include mandatory shoe inspection as well. Woe to those who wear laced-up boots!

The rule of thumb now is, if you want less hassles, bring as few electronic gadgets as possible. The less metal you have, the better. Even the metal handles of roll-aboard luggage are now being routinely wiped with explosives-detecting chemicals before the gate.

And if your checked-in luggage has a metal container, like a wrinkle-remover canister, chances are the ground inspectors of the Transportation Security Administration will open your luggage.

Heard through the grapevine

EVERY ticket buyer in Glorietta and Greenbelt cinemas is being asked, on top of the movie fare, for a P1 "donation" by the box office, the proceeds of which will ostensibly fund a flood-control project of a private foundation, the Makati Environmental Foundation Inc.

Covered by a special Makati City Council ordinance, the donation drive will last two weeks.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

San Miguel . . .

From page B3

the manufacturing and recycling of certain plants and facilities and acquisition of machinery for the manufacturing and recycling of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles by Beverage Packaging Specialists Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of SMC," the disclosure said.

There will be seven conversion plants which are initially proposed to be located in San Fernando, Pampanga; Mandaue and Carmen, Cebu; Davao City; Pasuquin, Ilocos; Balayan, Batangas, and Cagayan de Oro.

Gov't agencies, PSE in talks to press Shell, Caltex on IPOs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DIFFERENT government agencies are in talks with the Philippine Stock Exchange to compel Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. to conduct their initial public offerings as mandated by law.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday told reporters he had met with officials of the PSE, the Board of Investments, the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission to look for ways of pushing the much awaited IPOs.

"We are looking for legal options but we have not (come to any resolution). We are meeting again," Perez said.

The Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Law of 1998 required Shell and Caltex to conduct their IPOs not later than February 2001. But an opinion from the Department of Justice said the deadline was merely "directory rather than obligatory."

In an earlier interview, Perez had said the parties were looking at the possibility of Shell initially listing less than 10 percent of its shares at the PSE.

The official said that after this, another listing of at least 10 percent could be expected. The energy chief added that Caltex Philippines' public listing would come after that of Shell.

Perez had been prodding Shell and Caltex to list on the stock exchange as early as a year ago.

AFP-RSBS sustains profitability

THE AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) posted a net income of P107 million in 2002, sustaining the turnaround achieved in 2001.

AFP-RSBS president Cesar M. Jayme Jr. said this represented a 174-percent increase from the previous year. Total assets stood at P11.9 billion, liabilities significantly reduced with the repayment of obligations to three creditor-banks.

A rehabilitation plan was set in place in December 1999, which laid down AFP-RSBS' priorities as asset enhancement and disposal, debt restructuring and reduction, systems and policy enhancements, organizational development and cost rationalization.

Efforts have since resulted into several ongoing negotiations for joint ventures on certain properties, a substantially reduced debt exposure from P4.2 billion in 1998 to P1.6 billion in 2002, a restructured debt at lower interest rates, and a level of past-due accounts reduced through collection or restructuring.

Jayme said a fully integrated financial management system would be in place this month to pave the way for the implementation of a benefit program to be launched within the year.

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2003 Super Sport M/T	790,000	128,000	31,101	22,248	15,830
Super Sport A/T	835,000	132,000	32,872	23,516	16,732

Low Monthly Plans/Zero Interest Plans

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Japan's economy expands in Q2

TOKYO—Japan's economy grew by a better-than-expected 0.6 percent during the quarter ended June 30, marking six straight quarters of growth, the government said Tuesday. But analysts warned against too much optimism about a fundamental recovery.

The numbers from the Cabinet Office for Japan's gross domestic product—the value of a nation's goods and services—show the world's second largest economy grew during the three months at an annualized rate of 2.3 percent.

Japan is stuck in a long slowdown, and government officials say economic activity has stayed flat for months, with export growth on the back of an overseas rebound one of the few signs of hope.

Growth eked out over the last year has been gradually fading quarter by quarter, although the numbers marked an improvement from the contraction seen the year before.

A survey of economists by Dow Jones Newswires and Nikkei News had forecast economic growth of 0.2 percent in the period from April through June.

The Cabinet Office's Yoshihiko Senoo told reporters Tuesday the cigarette purchases tended to inflate consumer spending. He also said worries about the SARS outbreak in Asia curtailed travel out of Japan, pushing down import figures, which in turn helped lift numbers for external demand.

As Japan loses jobs in manufacturing and construction, the main industries that propelled modernization for decades, companies are struggling to switch strategies and cut costs. The unemployment rate has hovered at near-record highs for months, the worst situation since the government began keeping such records in the 1950s. *AP*

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 13, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,200,000	1,350,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	200,000
Club Filipino	Please Call	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,125,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	230,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,400,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club *	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	720,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,100,000

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Asian stocks rise; await Fed

SINGAPORE—Tokyo stocks gained on Tuesday after Japan announced that economic growth in the second quarter was better than expected but a spike in the yen against the dollar was short-lived on fears of intervention.

Most other Asian stock markets were also in positive territory, buoyed by a rise on Wall Street, but traders were cautious ahead of the policy-setting meeting of the US Federal Reserve later in the day.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei average closed up 0.81 percent, extending Monday's 1.72 percent rise, as banks and real estate were bolstered by the growth figures.

"The market is strong after the GDP figures were in the upper limits of the expected range—they were very good in my opinion," said Daiwa Securities strategist Tsuyoshi Nomaguchi.

In other Asian markets, stocks were higher in Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India and the Philippines and flat elsewhere. The Morgan Stanley index of Asian stock markets ex-Japan was up 0.29 percent.

Traders said rises were capped by caution ahead of the meeting of the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee later on Tuesday.

The Fed committee is expected to keep interest rates at current 45-year lows to spur growth but more crucial for investors will be what it says about the prospects for the US economy to shake off its stubborn sluggishness.

The yen rose to about 118.38 against the dollar after the GDP data but had fallen back to about 118.67/72, near New York's closing levels, by 0600 GMT.

"The dollar briefly fell against the yen on strong headline figures in Japanese GDP, but the market became nervous about selling heavily near 118 yen due to wariness over intervention," said a senior trader at a Canadian bank in Tokyo. *Reuters*

US retail sales in July seen up

NEW YORK—US consumers spent heavily in July as the government's stimulative tax cuts and low interest rates kept cash registers ringing around the United States, according to a Reuters poll.

July's report on retail sales will give financial markets their first look at how successful the government's raft of tax cuts has been in promoting consumer spending.

Last week, Wall Street analysts revised up their forecasts following robust sales figures from US chain stores and automakers.

Economists polled by Reuters now expect retail sales to have risen by 0.9 percent in July, compared with earlier forecasts for a rise of 0.5 percent and up from the 0.5-percent rise seen in June.

If these estimates proved correct, it could mark the biggest jump in sales since March.

As consumer spending makes up around two-thirds of economic activity, a robust retail sales figure would give encouragement to economists who are expecting gross domestic product to grow by 4.0 percent or more in this quarter.

Major retailers have reported that July was the best month of the year so far, and aggressive promotional campaigns by the automakers saw sales of North American-made vehicles rise by 7.0 percent last month to nearly 14.00 million units.

"Consumers responded reluctantly to the rebate checks of 2001, but the recent cut is more permanent and larger. The July retail sales data will give us an early gauge of the current tax stimulus. We estimate that taxes were cut by about $10 billion in the month and about $2 billion of this was spent during July," said Lehman Brothers.

Many households probably also received checks from the recent surge in mortgage refinancings. And the early indications for sales have been strong, with solid chain store sales and a stronger than expected response to the latest auto incentives," Lehman Brothers added. *Reuters*

Microsoft loses suit

SEATTLE—A federal jury in Chicago awarded the University of California and a browser technology company $520.6 million after finding on Monday that their patents were infringed by Microsoft Corp.

The suit, originally brought against the world's largest software maker in 1999 by Eolas Technologies Inc., charged that Microsoft had used Eolas' patented Web browser technology which allows other mini-applications to work with Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser, according to court documents.

Eolas had argued that the technology for "plug-ins" and "applets" made it possible for Microsoft to compete against the Netscape Navigator browser.

Netscape, which eventually became part of AOL Time Warner Inc., later lost its position as the top Web browser to Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Eolas, a closely held Illinois company founded by former University of California professor Michael Doyle, had originally sought licensing fees that would potentially have totaled $1.2 billion.

Microsoft said it would appeal the decision in the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. *Reuters*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 12, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	68,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	47.5	46.5	47	162,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5	310,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	31	290,700
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	16,700
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	2,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	6,600
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	19.25	18.25	19	176,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	24.5	23.75	24.25	201,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.4	26,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1650	1630	1650	1,500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.34	302,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1220	1200	1205	6,760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.25	31,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.63	0.63	3,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	650	645	650	11,100
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	3,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.048	0.05	49,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.54	0.54	3,610,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.21	0.22	0.195	0.195	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	515	505	510	167,100
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	130,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	17,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	785,000
Manila Electric Co. B	19	19	18.5	18.5	1,718,300
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.06	3,329,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	10,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	20,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	340,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	310,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31.5	31	31.5	129,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	99,400
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	73,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	21,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	1,090,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,610,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	620,000
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.75	5,961,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	25,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.039	900,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.78	65,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	7,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.63	0.63	21,150,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.145	380,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	117,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.105	0.105	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	540,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	92,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.5	525,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	120,000
Ionics Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	136,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	37,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.79	0.75	0.79	6,840,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	9,040,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.38	670,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	4,020,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.145	0.15	1,340,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	350,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	340,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	560,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	111,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	9,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.09	0.09	1,500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	26,900
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	3,510,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	700,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.5	87,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	2,538,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	750,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	2,050,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	3,260,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.02	8,808,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	44,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.75	0.99	0.75	0.98	180,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,150,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	130,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	111,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	26,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	4,795,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	150,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	155,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.195	2,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	5,770,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	710,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	24,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	60,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	150,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,800,000

DISCLOSURES

VIVANT Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 25, 10 a.m. at the Cebu City Marriot Hotel. Record date is on Aug. 31.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Aug. 25, 10 a.m. at the Fontain Room of Mandarin Oriental, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of July 23 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will have its special stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12, 4 p.m. at the Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47/F of Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 15 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that can explain the 50-percent increase in the share price of its "B" that rose from P0.11 to P0.16 per share.

* * *

APC Group Inc. set for Sept. 3 the record date for its Oct. 1 annual stockholders' meeting.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 56,000 of its own shares at P1.24 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 12, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.880282	1.000000	54.795000
Japan	Yen	0.007426	0.008436	0.462300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.416285	1.608900	88.159700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112868	0.128218	7.025700
Switzerland	Franc	0.648363	0.736540	40.358700
Canada	Dollar	0.637793	0.724533	39.700800
Singapore	Dollar	0.502444	0.570776	31.275700
Australia	Dollar	0.578790	0.657505	36.028000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.335089	2.652661	145.352600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234742	0.266667	14.612000
Brunei	Dollar	0.501014	0.569152	31.186700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021070	0.023935	1.311500
UAE	Dirham	0.239676	0.272272	14.919100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.136000	62.247100
Argentina	Peso	0.301467	0.342466	18.765400
Brazil	Real	0.294310	0.334336	18.319900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134546	0.152844	8.375100
India	Rupee	0.019165	0.021772	1.193000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231684	0.263193	14.421700
Mexico	New Peso	0.081826	0.092954	5.093400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517417	0.587786	32 207700
Norway	Kroner	0.121305	0.137802	7.550900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015296	0.017376	0.952100
South Africa	Rand	0.119930	0.136240	7.465300
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000848	0.046500
Sweden	Kroner	0.108010	0.122699	6.723300
Syria	Pound	0.020960	0.023810	1.304700
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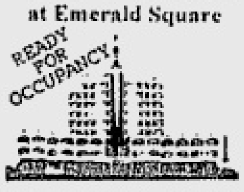

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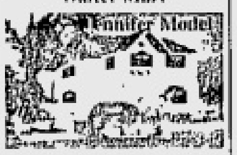

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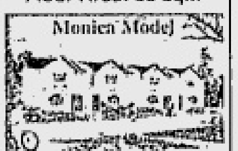

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Interested parties may call **793-2385** or cell number **0917-504-3000 (Buddy)** for details.

On-site viewing and inspection: August 16, 2003, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for submission of bids: August 19, 2003

(PDI–August 13, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement by the heirs of Corazon Carillo Galang who died intestate on July 16, 1998 in Quezon City, MM registered in the Notarial Registry of N.P. Ana Garcia of San Juan, M.M. as Doc. No. 252, Page No. 52, Book No. 54, Series of 2003 on July 30, 2003 in compliance with the rules of court of the Phils. (PDI-Aug. 6, 13 & 20, 2003)

PERSONAL

Dear POY,
May all your wishes come true and your stars shine brightest HAPPY BIRTHDAY! -poy

Thank You Holy Spirit
Fr: Earl Del Rosario & Family

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- Pictorial Session — SEPTEMBER 17, 2003 — Photo Shoot by *RICKY LADIA*; Hair and Make-up by *DAVID'S by Rever*
- Basic and Advanced Modeling — SEPTEMBER 20, 2003 — Coach *MR VIC SEVILLA*; Coach *DIRECTOR LOUIE CANO*
- The Dreamcast Day — OCTOBER 11,2003 — All graduates will be presented in a fashion show at the **Forum** , Podium on October 11, 2002 With the special performances of **Jimmy Bondoc**,**Nyoy Volante** and the **Akafellas**

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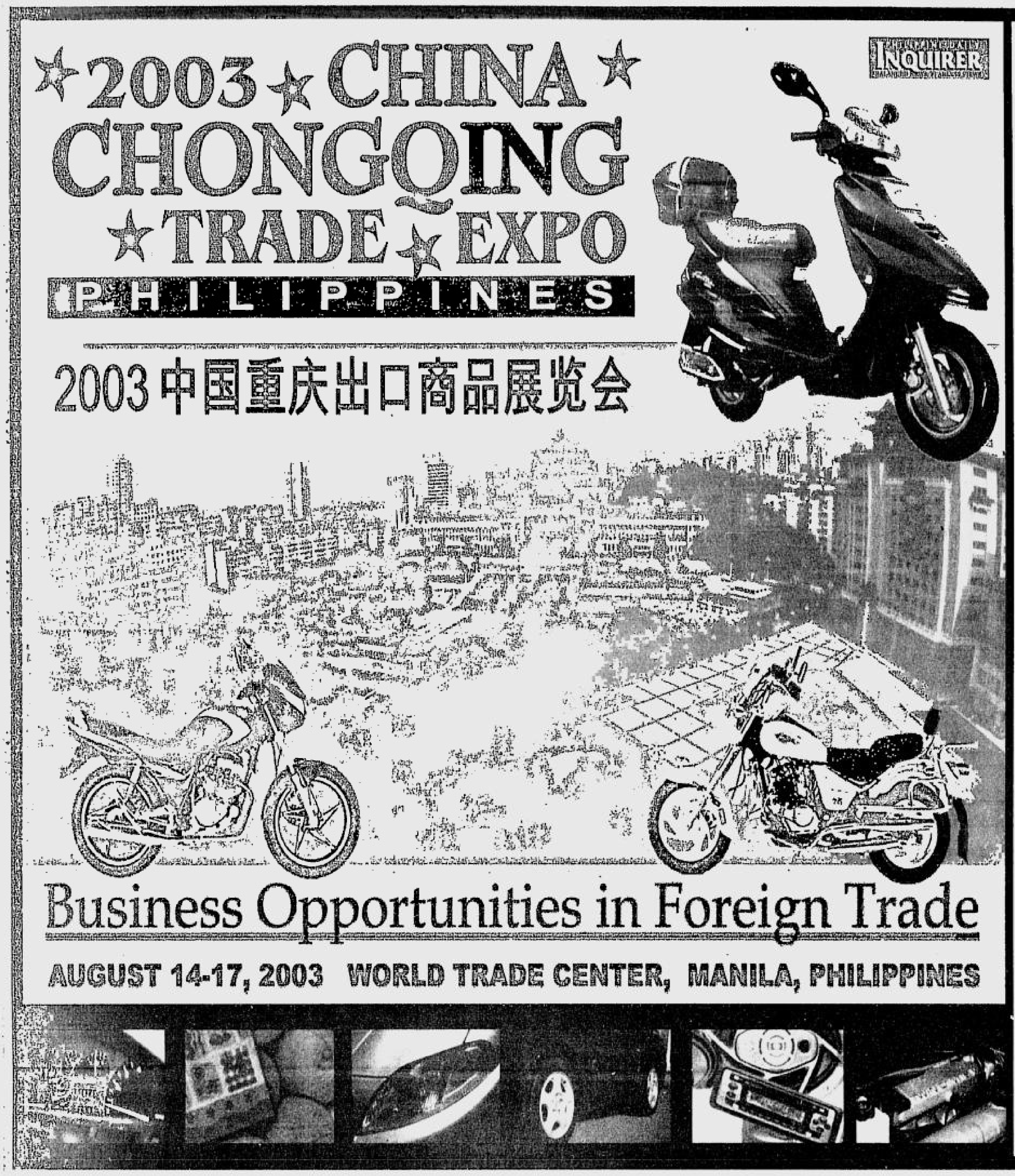

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EXHIBIT PROFILE. Being the largest vehicle and motorcycle base in China, the China Chongqing Expo will feature the motorcycle, electric bikes, automotive, engine, and spare parts industry. However, other industries also featured in the expo include the following: textile, fabrics, electronics, generators, pumps, agricultural machinery, car accessories & many others

VISITOR PROFILE. Invited to the show are Investors, Entrepreneurs, Motorcycle and Automotive Enthusiasts, Dealers and Distributors, Decision Makers, Relevant Organizations, Relevant Government Agencies, and the General Public.

TRADE OBJECTIVES. To foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of the various business opportunities available in Chongqing.

SUPPORTED BY. Office of the President of the Philippines * Office of the Vice President of the Philippines * Senate of the Philippines * House of Representatives of the Philippines * Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) * Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) * Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) * Filipino Chinese Business Club * Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) * Luzon Motorcyclists Federation, Inc.

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Seminar on supervision

THIS seminar is especially designed for first-line supervisors and those being considered for supervisory functions. It will develop the knowledge and skills of the participants in basic supervisory functions like planning, organizing, decision-making, communicating, monitor and control. The seminar is slated on Thursday, Aug. 14, 1 to 5 p.m. at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (near Vito Cruz). The workshop will have as resource lecturer Norman Goss, international trainer and Washington Sycip awardee. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

Nova Star hotel investors night

AN INVESTORS night of fellowship and cocktails will be hosted on the evening of Aug. 14, at the Manila Peninsula Hotel Balagtas room in honor of investors, unit owners and buyers of the 15-story Nova Star condominium hotel and in celebration of the successful launching of the hotel's commercial area. Nova Star hotel is being built at Harrison corner Hernandez Avenues, Pasay City, near the intersection of Roxas Boulevard and Edsa leading to Boulevard 2000 by the Hernandez Group of Companies, headed by Joselito N. Hernandez, who pioneered the San Antonio Valley Subdivisions in Paranaque and Las Pinas in 1957. Swiss-Belhotel, the hotel chain managing Linden Suites, will also operate Nova Star in addition to over 20 hotels worldwide. Nova Star is being built by Western Philippine Corp (WPC), a subsidiary of Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd.

FTI exchange centers

UPON the initiative of Producer-Consumer Cooperative Organization of the Philippines (Procopi), an NGO headed by Jaime B. Tuanquin Sr., FTI Regional Commodities Exchange Centers will be established nationwide. A pilot project is the allotment of a two-hectare area in FTI Compound in Taguig City, where every province can showcase and trade their products. On Aug. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Food Technology Center, FTI Compound in Taguig City, a forum on FTI Commodities Exchange Center will be held. Provincial governors and mayors are invited to discuss the conceptual framework and mechanics of food trading centers. Interested parties can call Nemesio E. Diamante at 882-0811 or Felicitas L. Gamboa Allbuyog at 713-6305.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COTABATO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DIRECT SUPPLIERS ONLY)

The Cotabato City Water District invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of supply, delivery and installation of one (1) Unit – FLOAT CONTROL VALVE, "brandnew" Class 250, Flanged Type, Y-pattern, Double Chambered Diaphragm Actuated Hydraulically Operated 14" diameter, with approved budget of Php 600,000.00 per Board Resolution No. 023-03 dated **July 05, 2003.**

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Cotabato City Water District.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 14, to Aug. 20, 2003/8:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
Opening/Submission of Bids	August 27, 2003, Wed./ 10:00 a.m.

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Cotabato City Water District.

The CCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the CCWD. The CCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 6 & 13, 2003)

INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ISABEL, LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, REGION VIII, RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The Municipality of Isabel, Leyte (Municipality) is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas (Project) along Dupong Bay, Isabel, Leyte intended for mixed use development such as commercial, industrial, residential, among others

The Project shall be undertaken on a joint venture arrangement with the Municipality whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land rental or land to be reclaimed.

The Proponent/Developer must show proof of its legal, technical and financial capability and must submit the following pre-qualification documents attached to its letter of intent addressed to the Municipality to undertake the Project

1. Non-Refundable Filing Fee in the amount of P22,000.00 inclusive of VAT payable to the Municipality in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check;
2. Original copy of SEC Certification of Good Standing/Record;
3. Complete set of legal documents of the organization, i.e., Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm and member/s if consortium, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws, and Company Profile, Business Registration and License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent duly filed/stamped received by BIR;
5. Affidavit of Undertaking that if awarded the contract, to provide financing for the Project estimated to be not less than P1.567 Billion.
6. Credit lines in specific amount issued and certified by reputable bank/s and financing institution/s;

All qualified Proponent(s)/Developer(s) shall be advised to submit project Pre-Feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by Municipality of the Project.

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the Project including required attachments shall be on Sept. 30, 2003 at the office of the Mayor, Isabel, Leyte Tel. Nos. (053) 337-2053, not later than 5.00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. FUENTES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–Aug 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-007

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 17, 2003; 9:00 AM			
7A1	INTEGRATED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE & LOCAL NETWORK	MCF-02-476(JP)	P 6,300,000.00
7A2	REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR TURBINE VALVES	MCF-02-709(JP)	P 2,000,000.00
7A3	DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR ASSY	MCF-02-714(JP)	P 9,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 17, 2003; 2:00 PM			
7B1	SPARE PARTS FOR UNIT-1 MAJOR OVERHAULING	MCF-02-724(JP)	Y 65,000,000.00
7B2	SELF PRIMING PUMP	MCF-03-281(LS)	P 935,000.00
7B3	POLE LINE HARDWARES	PLW-02-045(ZC)	P 20,609,480.84
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2003; 9:00 AM			
7C1	SODIUM HYDROXIDE (CAUSTIC SODA)	3MGP-03-0195(ZC)	P 7,350,000.00
7C2	MAIN OIL PUMP ASSEMBLY	3MGP-03-0187(RP)	P 12,609,000.00
7C3	J O -REPAIR/RECONDITIONING OF 13 UNITS COOLING TOWER GEAR REDUCER OF UNIT 3 (6 UNITS) AND UNIT 5 (7 UNITS)	3TGP-03-013(RP)	P 1,400,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 18, 2003; 2:00 PM			
7D1	PROTECTION RELAY	3BAC-03-0311(RP)	P 990,000.00
7D2	STI ELECTRO PNEUMATIC POSITIONER/CONVERTER & PNEUMAX PNEUMATIC DISTRIBUTOR	3BAC-03-0380(RP)	P 1,978,086.00
7D3	J.O ON-SITE REPAIR/BUILT-UP/RECONDITIONING OF GROOVE SLIP RING EMPLOYING THE SELECTRON PROCESS OF ELECTROCHEM METALLIZING FOR BAC-MAN I UNIT 1.	3BAC-03-0331(RP)	P 3,500,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 24, 2003; 9:00 AM			
7E1	J O ADDITIONAL REPAIR WORKS FOR PRIMARY E P FLY ASH STORAGE SILO CONCRETE ROOF DECK AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES	2BCF-03-115(ZC)	P 3,518,100.00
7E2	PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE	2BCF-02-862(ZC)	P 2,200,000.00
7E3	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION MAT'LS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BCFTPP TRAINING CENTER	2BCF-03-535(NY)	P 1,929,910.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2003; 10:00 AM			
7F1	PARTS FOR PIELSTICK 16PC 2.5V 400 DIESEL ENGINE	5PDPI-03-144(JS)	P 4,368,816.00
7F2	J O FOR THE REHAB OF THE CENTRALIZED AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEM	5LGP-03-200(LS)	P 8,200,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 25, 2003; 2:00 PM			
7G1	ELIMINATOR, DRIFT	5PGP1-03-087(AC)	P 6,850,000.00
7G2	VARIOUS PLYWOOD & LUMBER TREATED	5PGP1-03-087(AC)	P 3,104,400.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003; 9:00 AM			
7H1	PARTS FOR ROTARY LOBE BLOWER	MCF-03-132(JP)	P 1,500,000.00
7H2	VARIOUS BRONZE, MAGNOLIA, SAE 64	MCF-03-267(JP)	P 961,356.00
7H3	REPAIR KIT 4" DIA. KTM BALL VALVE	MCF-03-221(JP)	P 1,400,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003; 2:00 PM			
7I1	GLOBE VALVE/ANGLE NEEDLE VALVE, BRAND: TOA	MCF-03-215(LS)	Y 6,362,400.00
7I2	PARTS FOR AIR COMPRESSOR	MCF-03-203(LS)	P 1,563,913.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

7A1-7A3	SEPTEMBER 3, 2003; 9:00 AM	7E1-7E3	SEPTEMBER 10, 2003, 2:00 PM
7B1 & 7D3	SEPTEMBER 3, 2003, 2:00 PM	7F1-7F2	SEPTEMBER 11, 2003, 10:00 AM
7C1-7C2	SEPTEMBER 4, 2003, 10:00 AM	7G1, 7G2 & 7I1	SEPTEMBER 11, 2003, 2:00 PM
7C3 & 7D3	SEPTEMBER 4, 2003, 2:00 PM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on August 13, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued 7 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper subsidiary execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%). Surety Bond Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Aug 13 & 21, 2003)

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JESUS (JESS) RAVADILLA JAYME

Joined his Creator on August 9, 2003
in Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

Jesus was born on January 14, 1922 in Manila, Philippines, to **Fortunato** and **Rosario Jayme. Jesus** will be lovingly remembered by his beloved wife **Leonor (nee Angeles)**, daughters **Perry (Lito), Evelyn (Cesar), Telly** (**Rick**), **Norie (Doug)**, sons **Jay Jay** and **Lito (Marvie)**, grandchildren **Marty, Mike, Jamie, Peter** (deceased), **Celine, Stephanie, Carolyn, Taren, Ashley, Timmy, Kathleen, Julian, Sydney, Jordan, Alyssa,** and siblings **Nato, Cesar** (deceased), **Melchor, Fe, Pacing, Caring, Inting**, many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Jesus graduated with a Business Administration degree from the University of the Philippines. He was a founding father and first president of UP Beta Sigma Fraternity. He was a businessman, banker, stock broker and real estate developer.

His Lord God was an important part of his life. Honesty, integrity, respect and love for others can best describe his character.

A prayer service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 12, 2003 at the Holy Spirit Parish, 244 Lawrence St., New Westminster, Canada. A mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 13, 2003 at the Holy Spirit Parish and followed by interment at the Gardens of Gethsemani, New Westminster, Canada. A family celebration of Jesus's life will be held in the afternoon.

"Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

"Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom I delight."
Matthew 12:18

In Memory of Our Beloved

Most Rev. Celso N. Guevarra, D.D., STD.

Bishop Emeritus

Diocese of Balanga, Bataan
on his First Anniversary to Eternal Life
August 13, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered on Wednesday, August 13, 2003 in various churches among which are the following:

San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish Church, Capas, Tarlac	10:00 am
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Church, Capas, Tarlac	5:00 pm
San Sebastian Cathedral, Tarlac City	12:00 noon
St. Joseph Cathedral, Balanga City	5:30 am, 6:30 am, 5:15 pm
Metropolitan Cathedral, City of San Fernando	5:15 am, 6:15 am, 7:00 am, 7:45 am, 8:15 am, 12:00 noon, 5:30 pm
Sta. Lucia Parish Church, City of San Fernando	6:30 am
Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Balibago, Angeles City	7:00 am
Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 am, 6:15 pm

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.
"Let us keep the flame of remembrance burning in our hearts"

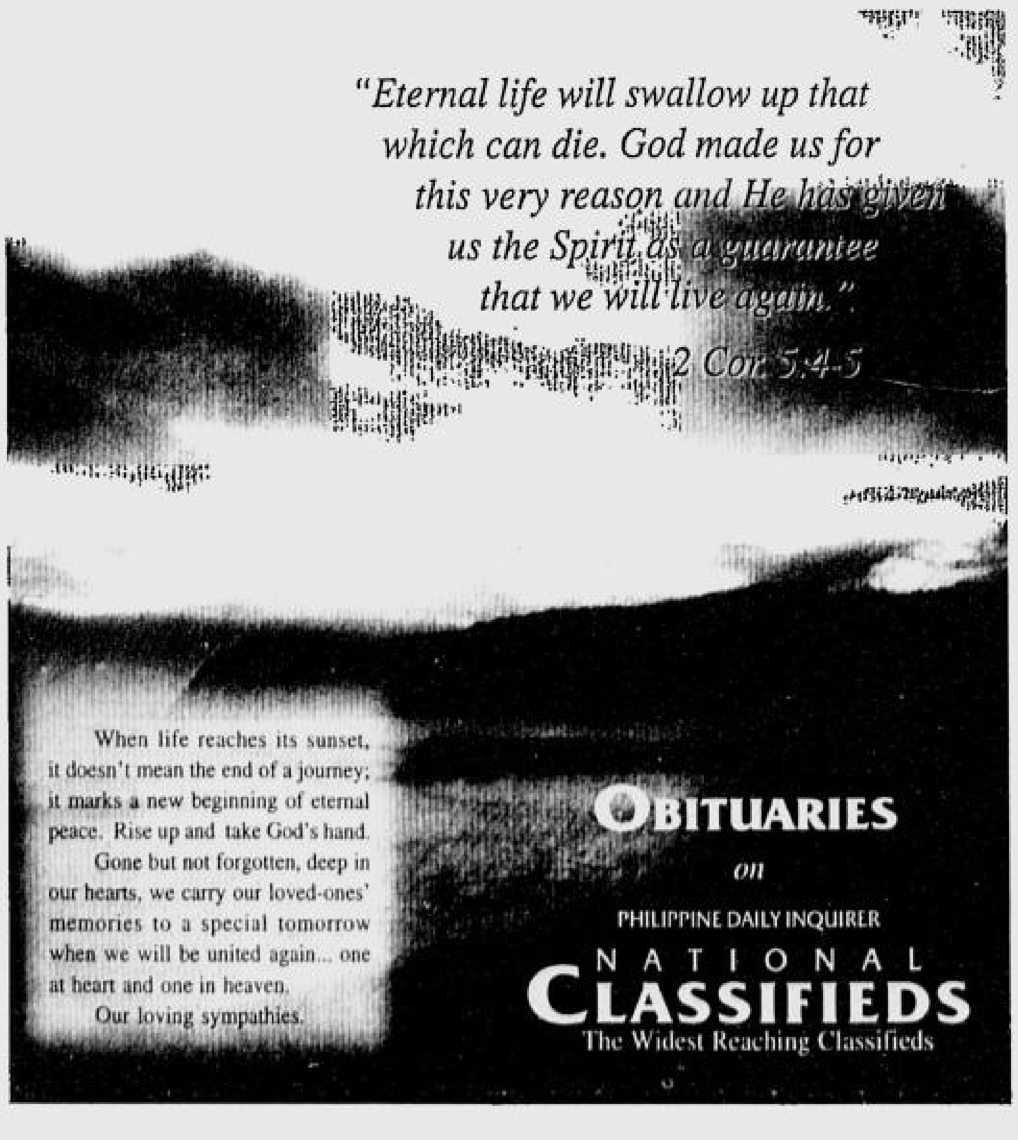
In Loving Memory on the 1st Death Anniversary of
Everdearest "Inay"

IRENE LUICO CAUYAN LIBREA

UP DipNursing '47; Handmaids of the Lord (HOLD)
(May 5, 1922 – August 14, 2002)

Relatives and friends may join in the celebration of the following Holy Masses on Thursday, August 14, 2003 offered for the eternal repose of her soul:

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Dolores, Quezon	9:00 a.m.
St. Paul the First Hermit Cathedral, San Pablo City, Laguna	5:15 p.m.
S.P.C. Sacred Heart Chapel, San Pablo City, Laguna	5:15 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes, Ph. 3, Parañaque City	6:45 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Salcedo Village, Makati City	7:45 a.m.
Makati Medical Center Chapel, Legaspi Village, Makati City	12:00 n.n.
Greenbelt Chapel, Ayala Center, Makati City	5:45 p.m.


"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

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"His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content,
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many..."
Isaiah 53:11

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the death of

FR. PAUL COONEY

who died at the Makati Medical Center
on August 11, 2003 at the age of 78.

Fr. Paul Cooney was ordained in Ireland on December 21, 1951 and came to the Philippines the following year. He was assigned to Mindanao and served in the parishes of Bonifacio, Kapatagan, Tangub, Baroy, Dumalinao and Dinas before being appointed superior in Ozamiz. In 1981 he came to Manila to work in Columban regional administration, serving as Vice-Director (1981-85) and then as Regional Director from 1985 to 1989. Upon completion of his term as superior he returned to Mindanao to Malabang, Lanao del Sur as parish priest and advocate of Muslim-Christian dialogue (1990-1997). Fr. Paul's last assignment was to Ditucalan, Iligan, as chaplain to the National Power Corporation.

Fr. Cooney now lies at rest at St. Columban's, 1857 Singalong Street, Manila. His remains will be taken tomorrow evening (13th August) to Malate Catholic Church where there will be a Requiem Mass for his repose at 6:00 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, 14th August in Malate at 11:30 a.m. and the body will be then taken for burial to the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque.

May he rest in peace.

In Memory of our Beloved

MRS. ANTONIA C. LOMIBAO

(1922 - 2002)

of Mangaldan, Pangasinan and San Miguel, Tarlac
on her 1st Death Anniversary
(Died on August 13, 2002)

Her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives friends and loved ones, request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of "**Mamang.**"

Osias Rebustillo Nepomuceno

December 19, 1938 - August 9, 2003

His bereaved wife **Nelia**; daughters **Nenette**, **Jowaher** & **Orange**; brothers **Fermin, Carlos, Augusto & Roger**; sisters **Lourdes, Letty & Chit**; brothers and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati.

Interment will be on August 19, 2003 at Irosin Catholic Cemetery, Irosin, Sorsogon.

ENGR. JOSE MONSALUD MIER

Died on August 11, 2003
at the age of 89.

His loving children **Marita, Jose Jr., Flordeliza, Ma. Elena, Jose III, Ma. Luisa, Ma. Aurora,** daughter and sons-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Park Chapel, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 15, 2003 after the 9:00 A.M. mass at the Loyola Chapel.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

The family of the late

LUCIO P. ANTONIO

Retired US Navy

sincerely convey our deepest
gratitude and appreciation to all
who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy,
visited and kept vigil
in our hour of sorrow, attended
funeral rites and prayers and in
many ways comforted us in our
moment of grief.

Maraming SALAMAT PO.
May God Bless You All.

DEATH NOTICES

ADELINA BLANCIA JAVIER

Passed away on August 10, 2003

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

LEONARDO E. DEPUSOY

Passed away on August 9, 2003

His remains lie in state at Palicpican St., Balayan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at Balayan Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

BERNARD P. FERNANDEZ

Passed away on August 9, 2003

His remains lie in state at the St. Joseph Hall at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila 1112, Q.C.

Interment at the North Cemetery will follow the 9 a.m. Mass on Thursday, 14th of August 2003.

Getting your dream home, worry-free

HAVE you found the One?

You've asked around, consulted your family and friends, sought out several references. With all the information at hand, you're still fearful to take the leap. You worry about the future and its uncertainties. With all the unexpected things that can happen, you wonder if you can ever be prepared to handle change.

Indeed, buying or building a home is like finding your lifetime partner. It is one of the most important decisions you will make. A lot of considerations and risks will be involved. For a home to last as well as any relationship, it requires a strong foundation.

With careful planning and patience, you will soon discover the one that suits you. And when you find it, you would want to keep and cherish it for the rest of your life. But how can you make the right choice?

The support of good friends and family is essential in making any relationship work. This is also true in buying or building a home. You will need all the help you can get. For most people, home financing is the way to go. There are several banks that will provide you the needed support.

However, like finding the right partner, not all housing loans are created equal. You need to find the one that fits your needs perfectly. You will want to have a partner that gives you security. The following pointers can help you avoid getting a bad deal on a housing loan:

- First, discuss your plans with your family members. Since you are undertaking a huge project, their support is crucial in helping you achieve your goal.
- Expose yourself to a lot of advertising. The information you receive will eventually help you ask right questions and give you a better idea of what you are getting into.
- Note down five or more banks offering housing loans. Make a chart to enable you to compare the features, strengths and weaknesses of each.
- Call each bank on your list to find out more about the offered housing loan. It is also important that you get a feel of the bank's personnel whom you will transact with later on.
- Make sure you get sample computations so you'll get a clear idea of how much you are committing yourself to pay monthly for your home.
- Once you fully understand how each housing loan works, discuss them with some friends and relatives before deciding with which bank to apply for the housing loan. Other people will always have different perspectives on the same thing. They might bring up a point you overlooked.

The good news is this is the best time to buy or build a house since lending rates have been relatively low and stable. With most banks offering various mortgage loan packages, you can choose different payment options that would suit your budget. An interesting innovation that you should take note of is rate protection. It would be best to consider a housing loan that gives you a guaranteed maximum interest that will shield you from possible sudden interest rate increases. Such valuable assistance is provided by Metrobank's MetroHome Rate Protection Plus.

In addition to offering one of the lowest interest rates in the market today, this housing loan secures you from paying for more than you need to in the future. You are prepared to handle change since your interest rate is protected from circumstances beyond your control. Like a faithful partner, Metrobank gives you that peace of mind as you fulfill your dream of having your own home.

MetroHome Rate Protect Plus guarantees an interest rate for two terms of five years each. On your first year you are given the prevailing rate, a minimum or floor rate, or the welcome rate, whichever is available. For the duration of the rate protection period, the loan enjoys an annual review of interest, and is given rates that are guaranteed not to go beyond the predetermined minimum and maximum rates of 10 percent to 15 percent for the first term (1st to 5th year) and 11 percent to 16 percent for the second term (6th to 10th year).

This is a better deal for you, compared to home loans with a fixed interest rate for 10 years straight, a rate which may be higher than the prevailing rate in the future. Such a scheme does not allow the borrower to enjoy lower interest rates at re-pricing. With the MetroHome Rate Protect Plus, you will also be shielded from future interest rate surges by your guaranteed maximum interest rate. The good news is, this can be translated to savings on your part.

MetroHome Rate Protect Plus is applicable for purchasing a lot, a house and lot, townhouse or condominium, constructing or renovating a house, or for reimbursing expenses incurred for purchasing or renovating an existing house when no outside financing was involved. It may also be used to refinance an existing home loan.

Payment terms range from five to 20 years.

To qualify, a borrower must have a gross monthly family income (GMFI) of at least P30,000.

MetroHome Rate Protect Plus will be available at all branches nationwide. For information on fees, charges, and other inquiries, call the bank's head office-consumer lending group at 898-8000 locals 8505, 8506, 8533, 8534, 8929, 9881, and 9942. Likewise, interested parties may also call the following consumer lending business centers nearby: Cebu-Fuente Osmena (254-1263), Calamba-Crossing (834-1598), Urdaneta Pangasinan (568-7414), Davao Center (222-8771), Cagayan de Oro-Divisoria (857-7790 to 91), Bacolod-North Drive/MB Araneta (435-0525), and Iloilo-Gen. Luna (336-3956).

PHILCOM-NETVOICE PARTNERSHIP

Philippine Global Communications Inc and NetVoice recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) appointing NetVoice as a duly authorized marketing agent of PhilCom for the sales and distribution of PhilCom prepaid voice products. Shown, from left, are Jose Mari Lagdameo, senior vice president, Philcom, Vicente Jayme Jr., president and CEO, Philcom, Paolo Concio, general manager, NetVoice, and Anna Kornerup, Asia Pacific sales manager, Net2Phone.

NORTH FACE SELECTED OFFICIAL SHOES OF CEBU PACIFIC

The North Face, the internationally renowned brand of high-performance outerwear and equipment, recently forged an alliance with Cebu Pacific Airlines. The North Face will be providing footwear for the airline's cabin crew as the 'official shoes' of Cebu Pacific. The North Face is the preferred brand of serious mountaineers and outdoor adventurers. It offers a comprehensive line of techwear, sleeping bags, packs and tents. In the Philippines, Uniglobe Travelware Co Inc is the exclusive distributor of The North Face merchandise. Shown are officials of Uniglobe Travelware Co Inc and Cebu Pacific Airlines during the contract signing, from left, Rosita D. Menchaca, director for cabin services, Thomas Lim, Uniglobe chair, Ronald Nunez, Cebu Pacific VP for commercial planning and support, (standing, from left) Weng de los Santos, CP product development, CP cabin crew representatives and Roel Chan, Uniglobe brand marketing executive.

AD ASIA 2003 PRESENTED IN 4AS-P 2ND GMM

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines held its 2nd General Membership Meeting at C2 Acceed Center recently. During the GMM, Ad Asia 2003 was presented to the general membership. The Ad Asia will be held in Jaipur, India this year. Presenters from the host country were Pradeep Guha, chair, organizing committee, Ad Asia 2003 and Goutam Rakshit, chair, Asian Federation of Advertising Associations (AFAA) accompanied by Oski Valenzuela, executive director, Adboard. Shown, from left, are Miguel Ramos, president, 4As-P, Pradeep Guha, Goutam Rakshit, March Ventosa, chair, 4As-P, Oski Valenzuela, Bienvenido 'Billy' Rockwell, corporate comptroller, 4As-P, and Socky Pitargue, vice president, 4As-P.

Shellane Hatid Bahay marks 4th anniversary

SHELLANE Hatid Bahay, the country's first centralized LPG delivery service, celebrated its 4th anniversary with a dinner affair at the Westin Philippine Plaza May 25.

Coinciding with the anniversary is the introduction of its new value-added services for its customers, the 7-point Safety Check and the Reminder Service.

The 7-point Safety Check is an assertion of Shellane's commitment to safety. This safety check program is being introduced to ensure safe and worry-free LPG experience for all Shellane Hatid Bahay customers. This procedure is performed by highly trained Shellane Hatid Bahay delivery riders as part of the Safety Package. It covers checking for leaks in the LPG setup, wear and tear of the hose and regulator, integrity of the valve and tank, and the storage area of the LPG unit.

The Reminder Service, on the other hand, is Shellane Hatid Bahay's proactive monitoring of the customers' consumption pattern. The service aims to predict when a customer is already about to use up her current Shellane LPG. All the customers that will be generated by the Reminder Service system in a particular day will receive a call from a Shellane Hatid Bahay call center specialist. The call center specialist will ask the customer if she already needs to have a fresh Shellane tank delivered to her home.

"We are introducing these two new value-added services to further enhance the LPG buying experience of our customers," said Lawrence Gella, Shellane marketing manager.

"With the 7-point Safety Check, our customers are assured that their home and family is safe and secure. The Reminder Service will ensure our customers that they will never experience running out of LPG again," added Gella.

The 7-point Safety Check and the Reminder Service can be availed of by dialing the Shellane Hatid Bahay number 887-5555.

PRUDENTIALIFE 25-YEAR VISION ENSHRINED IN TIME CAPSULE

Prudentialife, the leader in the pre-need industry, recently marked its Silver Anniversary with a week-long celebration. The highlight of the event was the blessing of a time capsule containing Prudentialife's vision statements for the next 25 years crafted by the employees and sales force along with other corporate memorabilia. It was enshrined May 8 at the Prudentialife head office in Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City with a corporate commitment to unearth the same on the company's 50th year in 2028. Shown is Prudentialife founder Francisco A. Alba, Ambassador to the Holy See (right of marker) with jubilant corporate officers and sales executives. Prudentialife is involved in pre-need, financial services, memorialization, real estate, travel and leisure and information technology.

BBFI, AFREIGHT SIGN MOA

Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI) and AFreight Asia Pacific Ltd recently signed a memorandum of agreement allowing BBFI the use of AFreight's warehouse for the storage of books. The books for storage were donated to BBFI for distribution to various school beneficiaries. Present during the MOA signing were Elaine Go Mapa, executive director of BBFI and Rosabelle L. Woolf, executive director of AFreight. BBFI is a private corporate foundation engaged in the management of educational development programs that aim to help uplift the quality of education in the country. AFreight is an international door-to-door cargo forwarder.

Associated Swedish Steels signs on at PDMAEC 2003

ASSAB has been in marketing special steels in Asia, Australia, Latin America, and Africa since 1945. The parent company with its head office in Sweden has 15 sales companies and has distributors in another 30 or so countries. Assab exports from Sweden to more than 50 countries outside Europe.

The company's marketing approach is not about selling a product, but finding a solution. Its goal is to solve existing problems or improve an existing process using Assab materials and value added services.

The philosophy of Assab is to help its customers' businesses grow through improved tooling efficiency.

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Presently, Assab, after signing its participation at PDMAEC 2003, is now in the process of preparing its new products and services for the upcoming Philippine Die & Mold Association Exhibition and Conference 2003 (PDMAEC 2003)—the 1st Die & Mold, Machine Tools, Equipment, Accessories and other related Products and Services Exhibition and Conference which will be held from Aug. 28 to 31 at Philippine Trade Training Center.

Among the exhibitors are Aichi Forging, Automation Security Inc., Avadon International Corp, Bon Industrial Supply, Cadtech Systems Corp, Colt Commercial, Edman Machtools, Gaylan Technologies, ME Industrial Machinery, Maedan Enterprises, Nicklaus Machinery Corp, Penta Technological Products Inc, RMC Equipment Phils, Inc and more.

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ProductFILES

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3
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7 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
8 MOTEL
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
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4 FINDING NEMO

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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 MOTEL
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 FINDING NEMO
8 BULLETPROOF MONK
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE IN-LAWS

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8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 MR. BONES
10. MOTEL
11 DARK WATER
12 NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY MANILA
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 THE DEBUT
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 DARK WATER

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2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 DARK WATER
8 THE DEBUT
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 TUKAAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 THE DEBUT
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM SOUTHMALL
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2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 MOTEL
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE DEBUT

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2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 DARK WATER
5 WILD BUTTERFLY
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY ILOILO
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2 RESERVED
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 RESERVED
8 DANCER IN THE DARK

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2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 FINDING NEMO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY DAVAO
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1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 IMPOSTOR
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS 2

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5 BAD BOYS 2
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAODINARY GENTLEMEN
8 THE IN-LAWS

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8 FINDING NEMO

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3 NOON AT NGAYON
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5 BAD BOYS 2
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

The good girl of radio broadcasting

"PANGGA" Ruth

By Candy G. Villanueva

CAREER TALES

THE COMMON path for broadcasting professionals is to start from radio then move to television. Since the limelight and higher pay are just a few of the many flashing perks of television work, radio is considered by some as merely a stepping-stone to this ultimate goal. But Ruth chose to take the opposite route. She started a promising career on TV but found success and fulfillment in the challenging world of radio broadcasting. She is now a full-time program host of the popular AM station, dzRH of Manila Broadcasting Company. She has a full schedule hosting *Tatsulok* with Joe Taruc and Deo Macalma from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and *Hataw* with Deo Macalma from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. from Monday to Saturday, Operation *Tulong* with Andy Verde from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday and her own program, *Tulay sa Maunlad na Pamumuhay* from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

In her friendly and talkative manner, characteristics that made her popular with her radio listeners, she explained her unusual career path. Casually but smartly dressed in jeans and shirt, she frequently paused to wave and dispense a cheery smile to admirers and friends. Ruth Abao-Espinosa is obviously a well-liked figure in the station's headquarters.

Early start

Her broadcasting career started when she was still in college. While most aspiring broadcasters were toiling their way up the broadcasting ladder starting as production assistants and glorified coffee servers, undergraduate Ruth was already going on air as a newsbreak newscaster for Channel 4.

This was not surprising considering that with the gift of gab, Ruth frequently found herself joining declamation contests in school. After high school, it was a natural choice for her to take up Mass Communications in UP Diliman. "Interestingly enough, I didn't dream of this," Ruth confessed. "I was just led into this. People said this is what I'm good at." On her third year at UP, enjoying her newfound independence as a young adult, she felt the need to earn her own living. She auditioned at Channel 4 and was chosen out of several hundred applicants. After Channel 4, she moved to ABS-CBN to host the then popular service oriented show, "Hoy Gising."

Ruth's television career was rosy until marriage pleasantly took over. After a short maternal leave, she returned to find her prized slot with "Hoy Gising" given to someone else. Ruth was not spared from the intrigues and controversies that beset life under the spotlight. Taking these in stride, she ventured into radio instead. Thanks to ABS-CBN's radio division head, Lito Balquiedra, who saw her radio potential, she finally found a place for her true interest.

Training ground

Surprisingly, the career shift helped Ruth discover her full potential. "I became a better announcer on TV because of radio. Radio is a good training ground," Ruth explained. Unlike in TV, there is no script to follow. Programs last at least two hours. Within that time, announcers are trained and forced to think and talk nonstop with commercials serving as a short breather. Without a script to follow, nonstop significant and insightful dialogue is a challenge that Ruth eagerly embraces because she is a self-confessed talker. She loves the fact that radio allows her to connect with the public. "Pangga" Ruth, as she is affectionately called, explains, "What I want more than anything else is to draw information from people. I think I have a knack for extracting out information without making the guest uncomfortable. This is what I love doing because by nature I am curious. You have to be curious about this particular topic or person, then your questions become natural."

After seven years in radio, Ruth now hosts several programs dealing with diverse topics for dzRH, from politics to entertainment to livelihood and career opportunities. According to Ruth, radio is more personal. You get instant feedback and get the chance to connect with different people at a deeper level. "I was able to reach out and help people who needed advice and counseling," Ruth said.

Interest in work

She attributes her success to hard work and enthusiasm. "You have to be interested in what you do. Before, I wasn't interested in politics. I had to read the news when I started doing commentaries. I just used to read comics and entertainment," Ruth laughingly confessed.

She also learned from her first radio partner and mentor Jay Sonza who advised her to "Read anything and everything. Don't rely on the headlines, read the small news as well. Know everything that goes around so you'll always be updated and never run out of topics."

Ruth also adds her own piece of advice for broadcast aspirants, "You can't limit yourself to politics. People will tire of it. Have an interest for issues dealing with the heart and soul."

Ruth's pretty face may no longer be as visible under the glaring spotlights of TV but she is happy and fulfilled knowing she is able to reach out to people effectively through her voice.

RUTH on board in dzRH

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

How to survive when you are out of job

By Vernie Evangelista-Española

WORK is an integral part of human life. It fulfills a great need in man—the need to create. It creates healthy living standards, a sense of security, happiness and pleasure. It is not only a means to support the family and educate the children but is also a medium of usefulness to oneself. But what do you do when suddenly the work you like the most is taken away from you?

Of course, losing one's job doesn't mean that you're a failure. You are still the same person with the same gifts. In a lifetime, almost every one experiences the trial of unemployment. There is the reality of children to clothe and feed, household bills that won't simply go away, the time and money to gamble with while between resumes or interviews.

Losing a job can be serious personal tragedy to your family. There are adjustments to make. You must pull yourself together, take control of your situation and attack it with positive, systematic ways that can help you become an "unemployment survivor." Here are some of these ways, based on my own experience.

Share your feelings

Explain to your family what has happened and encourage each member to express feelings honestly. All of them may have different emotions: sadness, hurt, anger or fear. At times, you may feel some bitterness toward your former employer or resentment of the unfairness of the situation. You may even suffer loss of self-esteem and feel apprehension of an uncertain future. Your feelings will undoubtedly be reflected, in part, by each of your family members and the sharing can make the pain more bearable.

Even small children can be made to understand why one family member is sad because he or she doesn't have a job anymore. For older children, the situation can be a big opportunity for a real life economic lesson. Children need responsibilities to build their own self-esteem, and the responsibility of participating in your crisis and the decisions related to it can lessen the impact for everyone.

Not the end of the world

Losing a job may seem a grim reality but try to look at your loss as an opportunity to make choices. Count your resources—it could include your savings accounts, stocks, unemployment benefits and insurance. Use that while finding work or while waiting for the results of a job interview. You can also use the available time to catch up on things around the house that you take for granted, like remodeling your surroundings, playing with the children or perhaps trying new activities. Directing your energy will help others put your tragedy in a more manageable light, and it will broaden your prospective.

Try building a new network of contacts and friends. This can increase your chances for job referrals. Go out and have some fun. Don't mope around the house all day. There is no shame in being unemployed. The only shame, perhaps, is to wallow in self-pity, refusing to take control of your situation.

There are other ways to beat unemployment. You can start your own small business or tap your talents to generate income. For example, if you are good in cooking, why not try opening a *carinderia*? There are other skills that can give you income like baking, sewing dresses, tutoring, buying and selling, or writing for magazines.

Being creative in meeting expenses can shift the focus from your tragedy. You can stretch available sources more by growing your own vegetables at your backyard and shopping at thrift stores.

Coping with the crisis

For whatever reason—factory shutdown, professional conflicts, office politics, layoff due to the company's bankruptcy—losing a job when there is a family to support may seem tragic. On the other hand, your family can be your greatest source of strength next to God. Frightening as it may seem, losing a job is not a blemish on your personal worth. It can in fact strengthen your character if you know how to handle it with faith that all things, including misfortune, will soon pass away.

(The author, according to her own words, is an avid reader of the Sunday Inquirer. She had recently lost her job and is sharing how she has become an "unemployment survivor." She is a freelance writer and has some written works published in Chic, Women's Journal, Celebrity World, City Life, Miscellaneous, Mr. and Ms and some online webzines.)

Dionisio Buccat

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Survey shows link between social drinking and career advancement

LONDON—AFTER-WORK trips to the pub with colleagues are such an integral part of the modern British office that teetotallers earn almost a fifth less on average than their moderately-drinking counterparts, a survey said on Monday.

So liberally are the mechanisms of pay rises and promotions lubricated by alcohol that even heavy drinkers tend to do better in the workplace than those who abstain completely, economists at Scotland's Stirling University found.

The study of 17,000 people, reported in The Times newspaper, found that men and woman who drink in moderation earn on average 17 percent more than non-drinkers.

Heavy drinkers — defined as those putting away more than 50 units of alcohol a week for men and 35 for women, with a unit equating to a half-pint of beer—earned around five percent more than teetotallers.

Stirling University economics professor David Bell, who led the study, said it showed that while binge drinking might affect work performance, a "steady soak in alcohol" could be beneficial.

"The survey shows that you don't want to be a teetotaller if you want to get on in your job," he told The Times.

While earnings eventually went down for those who consumed to great excess, "you have to drink quite a lot for it to be a problem," he added.

"It may be that people are not really seen as one of the gang if they don't go to the pub with their colleagues after work," Bell explained.

"Social networking is quite important in terms of career advancement."

AFP

Three steps to finding your passion

By Jason Gracia

IS IT worth it to risk changing careers to do something that you love? What if you fail, and can't turn back to the security of your old job? These risks and concerns are very real, and need to be given thorough time and thought.

The following tips will help to decrease the risk that is associated with changing careers, as well as help you create a plan of action.

1. Find your passion. When you know you're not happy at your current job, the first thing to do is think about what you do like doing. This is a difficult question to answer. Everyone wants to do what they love, but not many know what that is.

Get out a sheet of paper, and make a list of the things that you like to do. This list doesn't have to necessarily be jobs or careers. The items can be hobbies, things you do in your free time, or things that others do that you would like to try.

When your list is finished, try to think of a career that incorporates several of those items. At this point, anything goes. Even if you feel that your desired career is out of your league, it is worth further consideration if it is your true passion.

2. Learn about it. Now that you have a few ideas of what you'd really like to do for a living, it's time to learn. To begin, you can go to the library and check out a few books about your chosen field.

You can also look on the Internet. The resources on the Web are unlimited and virtually free. When your mind is set on learning about something new, you'll find tips and ideas all around you.

If you know someone who is in the field that you're interested in, get in contact with them. You can learn so much from someone who is already doing what you are interested in.

What if you don't know the person? That's fine. When you show interest in what they do for a living, they will be more than happy to help. You'll make them feel great, and they will want to do the same for you.

3. Take action. Quitting your job the second you think of an idea is not the way to go. Once you get the information and resources you require for your new career, take it slow.

Look for companies in the area who are hiring for your position. Call them for information about the position and its prerequisites. You can also start to update your resume, or put a new one together.

Just remember, it's easier to look for new opportunities when you have something to fall back on. It maybe a good idea to go into this slowly but surely. Change will come if you keep at it.

A new career is possible and can be yours if you decide you want to change, learn about it, and take action.

(Want to get motivated? Get your free motivation123 idea-kit, filled with tips and ideas to help you get and stay motivated, reach your goals and improve your attitude at the Motivation123 Web site. Reprinted with permission from http://www.motivation123.com)

Industrial engineers have many career options

By Joaquin E. Quintos IV
President & General Manager, IBM Philippines, Inc.

ASK YOUR CEO

DEAR Mr. Quintos,

I am presently working as an industrial engineer in a computer manufacturing company. I've been in this company for three years now. I was hired two weeks after my graduation. I can say that while I love my present job, I just can't imagine myself being confined in the production line for the rest of my active career life. The work, though rewarding, is physically strenuous.

They say that IEs are almost everywhere and among the engineering courses, it is the most flexible. My question is, aside from the manufacturing sites (IE, QA, PMC), where can IEs apply their profession? My dream is to be a good company consultant but I have no further ideas on how to attain it. Please give me some pointers on this. Thank you very much and more power to this column!

Searching for the Right Job

I wish to focus on two essential points you raised in your letter. Firstly, I would like to write about the professional possibilities that a young industrial engineer like you may want to consider. Secondly, I want to say something about the real driver in our professional growth. Is it your company or your boss who determines who you will become as a professional or how far you can go in your career ladder?

Career path

Having graduated from UP Diliman with a Bachelor in Industrial Engineering myself, I am able to relate very well with your predicament. While I cannot speak for all IEs, I certainly can say that for somebody like you, there is a world of distinct possibilities waiting to be discovered, a plethora of options that you can create for yourself. I agree with you that IE is a rather flexible preparatory course that allows you to be whatever you want to be later in your career. Unfortunately, I only have one line of career development to back me up: my personal progression at IBM Philippines.

I joined IBM Philippines in 1982 as a systems engineer, then went on to become systems engineering manager, account services manager, senior consultant of IBM's Consulting Group based in Singapore, then later as division manager for finance and public sector industries. In 1991, I pioneered the setting up of the local Software and Services divisions of the company. In 1996, I was given the responsibility to run IBM's S/390, Storage and Printers business in ASEAN/South Asia covering the countries of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Brunei. Two years later, I became ASEAN/SA general manager for Software and e-business and eventually, in 2000, landed the job of Director for Worldwide Sales of IBM's Software Group, based in IBM's corporate headquarters in Somers, New York. Then, in July last year, it was time for me to come home and lead our business in the country.

OD work

IEs can naturally accede into senior management positions like I have. But there are always other options. Aside from the manufacturing operations, which is your present work environment, IEs can do well in the area of organization development (OD). There are companies that engage IEs as OD consultants. This is a staff function reporting directly to the CEO or GM in medium-size companies or to the corporate services executive in larger organizations.

OD consultants conduct organizational diagnosis and assessment and initiate high-level organization planning, with the objective of helping all the different units of the organization to move toward a defined set of company strategic objectives. In some cases, the OD consultants facilitate the sessions to define the high-level strategic objectives. Companies hire IEs to do these things perhaps because most IEs manifest very good planning and organization skills, and appear to strike a balance between a keen focus on details and a good appreciation of the macro business perspective. It is always helpful when consultants have extensive industry or line experience as the skills are honed directly from this.

Career planning

As to the second point: who really drives your career development? Is it your boss telling you to follow one option over another? Is it your company creating opportunities for training and development and profiling your aptitude for certain disciplines? My position is: neither. The key to your own personal development lies squarely within you. You are ultimately responsible for your career progression and resiliency. This is a reality so important that at IBM we encourage employees to document their near-term and longer-term career aspirations in what we call an Individual Development Plan or IDP.

The IDP is a resource for the employee, supported by his/her manager's input, to document specific developmental actions for executing business commitments and growing his/her career. It provides a clear layout of short-term objectives as well as long-term goals. Both the employee and the manager have to set and agree on goals and aspirations that are realistic, and that the actions identified support continued development and contributions to the company. The document is reviewed with the manager on a regular basis, to keep it up to date with both development and business needs.

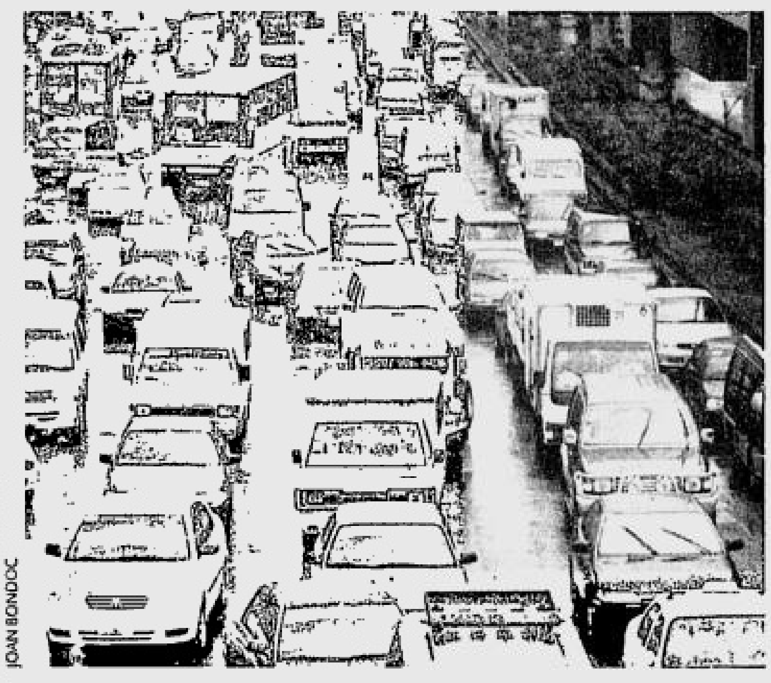
Opportunity

You do not have to be an IBM employee to enjoy the benefits of this process. You can start by defining what you envision yourself to be doing in, say, five years, and engaging the support and commitment of your managers. You must do this with "opportunity" in mind. Opportunity means more than the ability to find a new job. More importantly, it is about the ability to gain new experiences and knowledge in your particular field of expertise, the chance to work in a challenging and stimulating environment and to be rewarded for outstanding performance through increased responsibility and visibility in your current job.

CEO mentor Quintos

You can be what you really want to be! Being an IE is a great qualification with which to begin your journey of a thousand miles. Here's hoping for the best on your exciting quest.

(For advice from our CEO columnists, email rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. Letters shall be answered through this column.)


JOAN BONDOC

Car jams make male commuters aggressive at work

WASHINGTON — MALE commuters who inch through traffic tie-ups often become more aggressive and less productive in the workplace, according to a study delivered last weekend in Toronto.

Interestingly, it's a man thing: women trapped in traffic did not suffer the negative impact once at work, study author Dwight Hennessy of Buffalo State College's Psychology Department told AFP. He delivered the report at the American Psychology Association's annual conference, being held in Toronto.

"Men reported greater state driver anger, expressed hostility, obstructionism and overt aggression than women, while no gender difference was found for state driver stress," the study explains.

"Men may be more inclined to accept workplace aggression as an appropriate behavior response particularly if the consequences of previous acts of aggression have been 'successful' in solving disputes or reducing stress," it said.

Commuters who were the most stressed by their trip to work tended to have more difficult interaction once there, and tended to be late for meetings and not phone back those who left them messages.

"This suggests that some form of spillover from the traffic environment to the workplace environment is possible."

"Commuter stress is a serious issue that can have significant physical and psychological consequences," it noted. "But of particular note in this realm is the fact that it may influence the cognitive processes involved in attention, information processing, and appraisal that are essential to effective coping."

The study was of 77 women and 44 men aged 18-56. Hennesey noted 88 percent of US workers commute to work in a personal vehicle with a median commute time of 20 minutes.

AFP

What are your secrets for protecting your valuables when you fly?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: Recently I had my laptop computer stolen at the airport. After filing a report with the police, I was stunned to learn that I was the fourth victim in less than an hour. Is there any way to protect your valuables when you travel for business?

Fly Away

Your letter reminded me of a bullfight in Zaragoza, Spain when someone jumped into the ring. The bull charged, but instead of goring him, it strategically removed his pants and underwear with one "surgical strike."

It's no bull, the same thing can happen to you at the airport. To criminals, the combination of harried people carrying lots of valuables make airports a great place to steal stuff. I've adapted the following tips from LAPD Detective Kevin Coffey's, "Lies, Cons and Stolen Briefcases" (distributed by Magellan's, Santa Barbara, CA). In his off-duty hours, Coffey runs Corporate Travel Safety in Canoga Park, CA. With over one million frequent flyer miles, I thought I was sky smart but after five minutes with Det. Coffey, I realized I was flying blind. Here are his tips.

Travel tips

Pack your bag like you will never see it again. Checked in luggage should be predominately clothing and toiletries. Any valuables should be carried on.

If you use curbside check-in, watch your luggage right onto the conveyer.

Skycaps often like to pile bags high on carts rather than immediately putting them on the conveyer belt. As long as your bag sits in plain view, it's vulnerable.

Don't get separated from your bag at security checkpoints. Don't put your carry on bag on the conveyer until you have a clear path through the metal detector. Thieves have been known to wait at the other end to take your stuff while you are stuck behind someone who keeps setting the detector off.

And be sure that you don't set it off by putting all metal items in your bag before you get to the security checkpoint.

Caution

Cover up the receiver when you type in your phone card security code. To you it's just a long series of numbers, but to a thief your phone security code is like money in the bank.

Don't ever hang valuables on the hook inside a public toilet. Detective Coffey reports that to reduce theft, the Pennsylvania Turnpike removed hooks from all rest area stalls. It hurt business so much that the thieves put them back up. Keep your bag on the floor between your legs when you go.

Always put your ID tag on the outside AND inside of your bags. Often, the only place that ID tags are placed are on a handle that can be easily ripped off in the baggage process. Always be sure to have your name and address on the inside of each bag. A "found" piece of luggage is a terrible thing to waste.

Follow Detective Coffey's advice and you won't be gored during your next business trip.

MANILA
TOKYO
MIAMI
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Poll

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Have you ever been victimized when you travel for work?

-Yes, 11.9 percent
-No, 38.2 percent
-Just a victim of airline food, 49.7 percent

Our winning strategy for staying safe when you travel comes from Joe D. in Oakland, CA. "Be organized and prepared, don't look hectic and distracted. Keep physical contact with all your belongings. Don't be flashy and conspicuous. And always be mindful of distractions, thieves use teamwork, too."

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Worldwide study exposes wide variations in maternity benefits

GLOBALLY, maternity benefits appear to be lower outside Europe, with the exception of Brazil where an individual earning the equivalent of £15,000 would receive £6,923. In the US, there is no statutory maternity pay at all, although women may receive short-term disability or sick leave benefits instead. Similarly, women in Australia do not receive any statutory maternity benefits, although they are given a government allowance of £285. Asian countries such as Singapore and Taiwan also have low levels of maternity pay—the equivalent of £2,308 in both countries.

Greece, Luxembourg and the UK have the lowest level of statutory maternity pay in the EU, according to new research from Mercer Human Resource Consulting. The most generous allowances are given in Denmark and Italy. The comparisons are based on statutory pay built up over 6 months of maternity leave.

For a woman earning £15,000 a year, total pay accumulated after 6 months' maternity leave would be just £1,250 in Greece, £1,845 in Luxembourg, and £2,458 in the UK. Yet the entitlements in Denmark, Italy and Sweden would be as much as £6,756, £6,058 and £6,000 respectively.

Average maternity pay

Based on the same example, average statutory maternity pay across the EU for 6 months' leave is £4,198.

Gary Bowker, Employment Law Consultant at Mercer, said: "This is one area of employment law where wide discrepancies persist across the EU. Allowances in some Member States are more than four times those in others."

The research is part of Mercer's global analysis of employment conditions and benefits in 60 countries worldwide.

Mr. Bowker commented: "With the Government's emphasis on family-friendly policies, it's surprising that UK statutory benefits are so much lower than in the rest of the EU. However, a growing number of companies are now providing benefits above the legal minimum as a recruitment and retention tool."

In April 2003, the UK maternity benefit allowance rises from 18 weeks (6 weeks at 90% of pay and £75 for the remaining 12 weeks) to 26 weeks (where the remaining 20 weeks will be paid at £100 a week).

Highest provider

Outside the EU, the highest provider of benefits in Europe, and globally, is Norway, where an employee earning the equivalent of £15,000 a year would receive £7,500 after 6 months' leave.

In Eastern Europe, the level of maternity pay again varies widely, with the Czech Republic and Russia providing the lowest level of benefits (the equivalent of £1,128 and £1,280 respectively, using the case study example) and Hungary and Poland offering more than the EU average (£4,846 and £4,615 respectively).

Maternity leave

There are also vast differences in the total number of weeks' statutory maternity leave both within Europe and globally.

Worldwide, Asian countries provide the least number of weeks' statutory maternity leave. Women in Singapore and Taiwan are entitled to just 8 weeks, and in Hong Kong, 10 weeks' leave. Maternity leave allowance in the US is also low, at just 12 weeks. In contrast, women in Australia and New Zealand are entitled to take up to 52 weeks' leave, while in Canada maternity leave is 50 weeks.

In the EU, Sweden offers by far the most leave, at 96 weeks. Denmark, Italy, Finland and the UK also have generous provision, where women are entitled to up to 50, 47, 44 and 40 weeks' leave respectively. In contrast, German women are only entitled to 14 weeks' leave—a fraction of the Swedish allowance. Similarly, provision in Belgium is low, at 15 weeks.

"There is not always a correlation between the length of maternity leave and the benefit levels provided," said Mr Bowker. "Some countries offer long leave entitlements but low statutory pay, and women may not be able to afford to take extended leave."

Culture dependent

In Eastern Europe, the most generous maternity leave allowance is in the Czech Republic (28), followed by Poland (26) and Hungary (24). Russia has the least, at 20 weeks.

Mr. Bowker commented: "The length of maternity leave often reflects the culture of the country, and may be influenced by factors such as religion, social policies and changing demographics in the workplace."

The study is based on 6 month's statutory maternity leave for a woman earning £15,000 a year and exchange rates as of 3 December 2002.

The case study example of a woman earning £15,000 is used to make comparisons across Europe and globally. Average national earnings in each of the countries will, of course, vary. The figures used assume that the woman is expecting her first child and has completed one year of service.

The findings are contained in Mercer's Worldwide Benefit and Employment Guidelines 2002/2003.

Mercer Human Resource Consulting is a global firm that helps organizations create business value through their people.

Need Fast Cash?

It's the end of the month and your salary has just been credited to your account. Will you spend it on a vacation you've been dreaming of... or on that new entertainment system you saw in the mall? Thoughts of tuition fees and home repairs begin to intrude and a frustrated feeling creeps on you as you realize that you, again, have to set aside your dreams.

For Fast Cash, do you turn to the help of personal loans? However, these loans make you pay more than necessary due to exorbitant interest rates. Plus, there are fixed monthly amortizations to contend with and a personal loan is a one-time cash provision. What if you need additional cash? Are you willing to go through the whole process of applying for a loan again?

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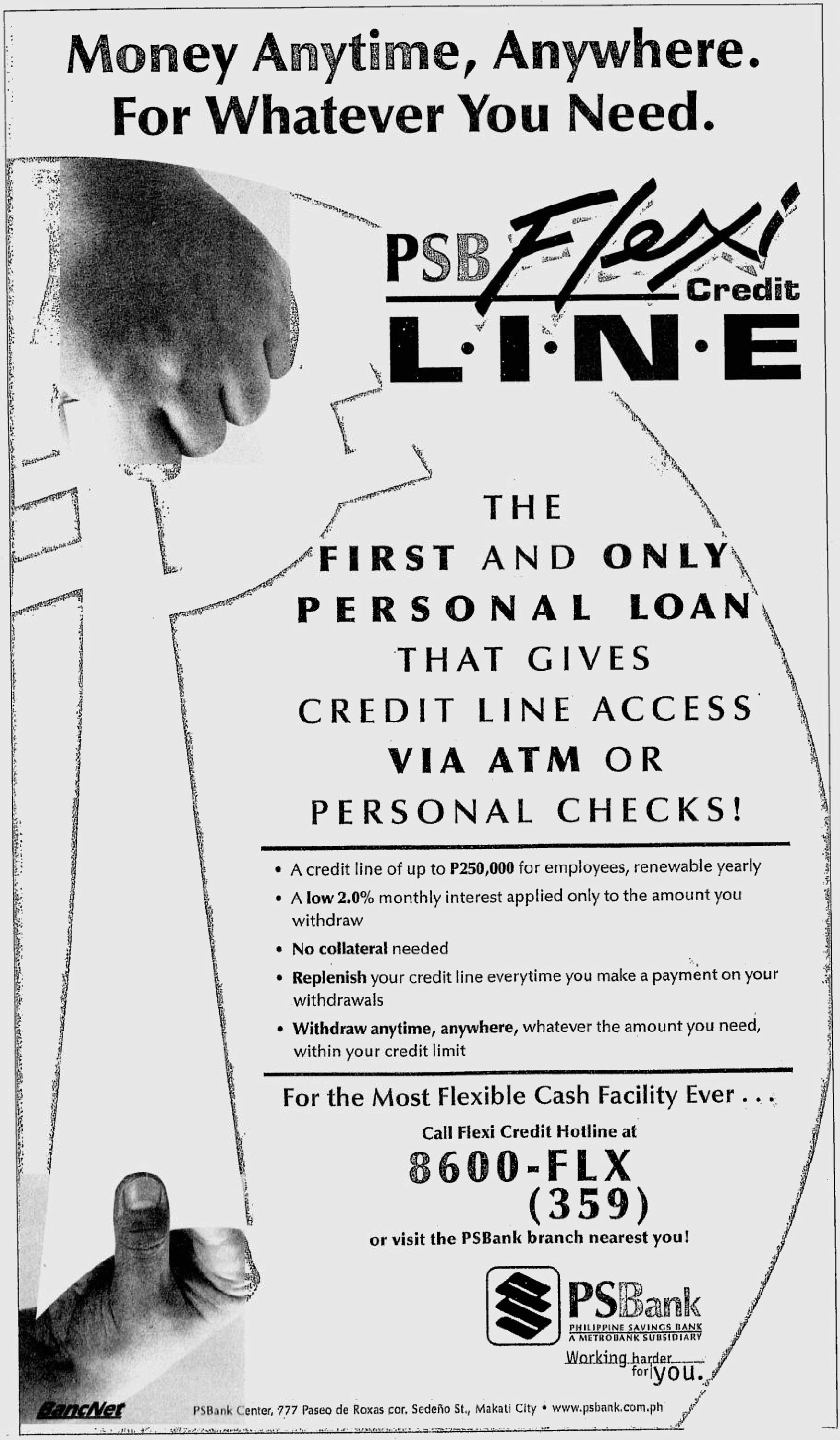

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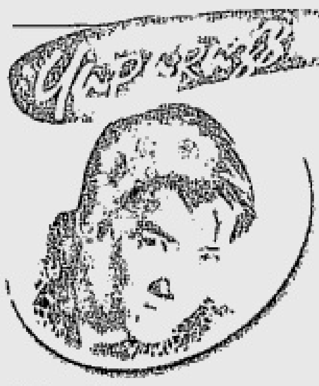
Silence, please!

Ricky Martin goes back to his Latin roots and turns a little pensive in his new album. But don't worry—he can still shake his bon bon

SARS-FREE in Singapore. Yaparazzi, Aubrey Miles, Ricky, Domi Espejo of ABS-CBN and David Fabros

It's Ricky Martin!



Tim Yap

SINGAPORE—"It's ironic how I am trying to find silence, 'cause I sing and dance and go crazy onstage. Opposites attract, I guess." Latin heartthrob Ricky Martin explains his three-year hiatus from the music scene, his last album being "Sound Loaded" in 2000. His record company, Sony Music, has gathered select journalists from Asia to listen to Ricky croon cuts from his latest all-Spanish album, "Almas del Silencio." The souls of silence, if your Spanish fails you at the moment.

"It's about forgetting something," Ricky says. "It's an album where you'll find a person searching for something deeper, searching for truth, honesty, balance, freedom."

In an industry where artists and their camps like to strike "while the iron is hot," Ricky's introspection is refreshing. "Music is very spiritual. When you're in the studio and music is born—you feel it. There can be nothing more spiritual than that."

During his search, he took up meditation, did yoga, spent time on his own. He indulged in simple joys like taking long showers and exchanging ideas with a lot of people, taking it one step at a time, doing things he wasn't able to do during the peak of his millennial popularity.

We must remember that this boy started singing at age 12, shaking his bon bon with the ancestor of all boybands, Menudo. He waxes nostalgic as he looks back on this little boy. "I see a lot of humility. Sometimes I feel sad 'cause this little kid was just riding his bicycle one day, then all of a sudden, he's performing in front of millions of people—but he was very happy all the way while he was doing it."

Child cause

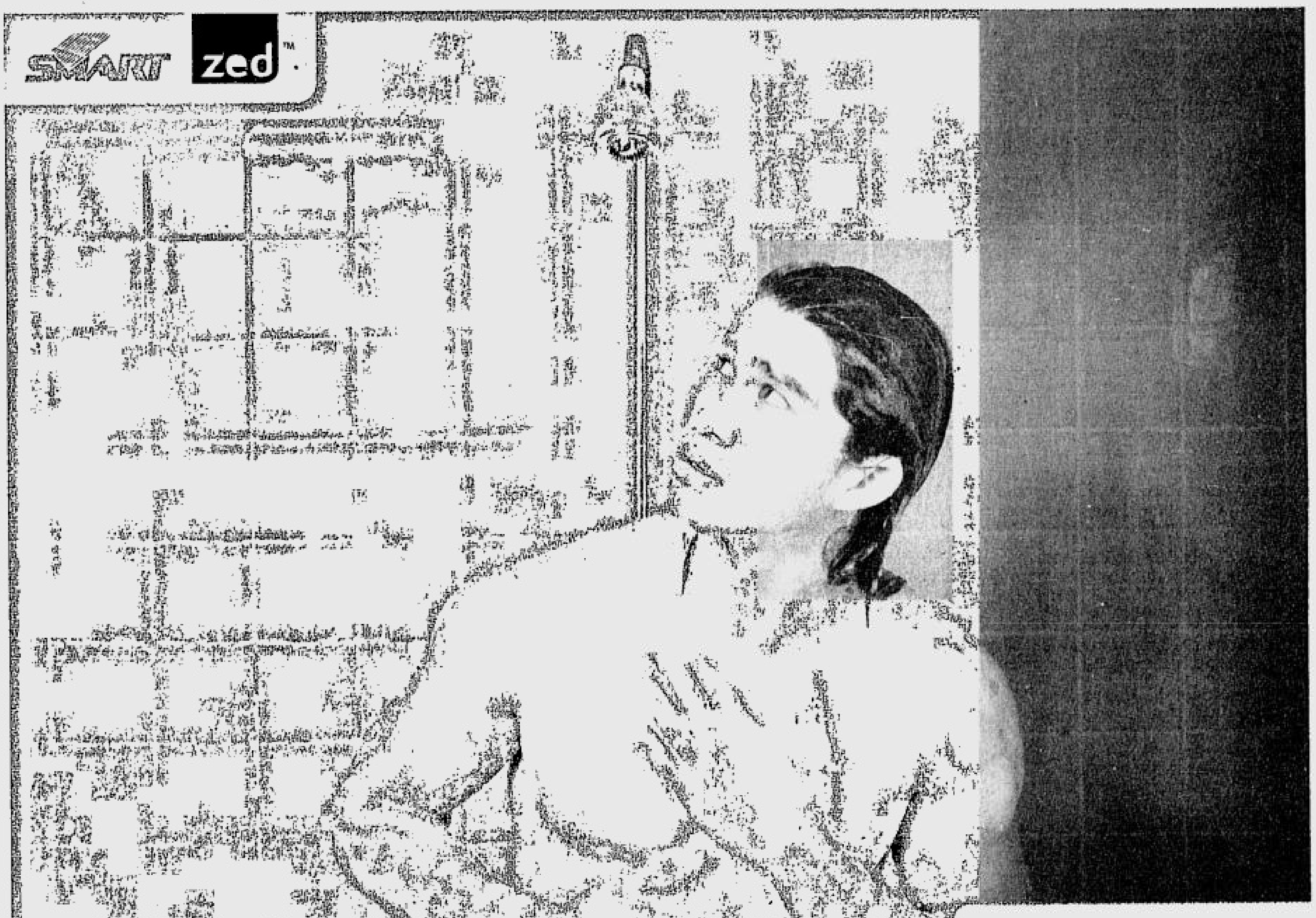
So close are issues of childhood to his heart that he has committed to the cause of children. His People for Children Ricky Martin Foundation champions these little heroes. He has been traveling to India since 1997 for this reason.

"Our priority is rescuing these girls from the streets, just to give them the real meaning of love," he says. "Children all over the world

SILENCE/ C3

"ALMAS del Silencio." After his all-Spanish album, Ricky promises to come up with an English record by end of February next year. March 2004, he plans to do his world tour.

SMART zed™

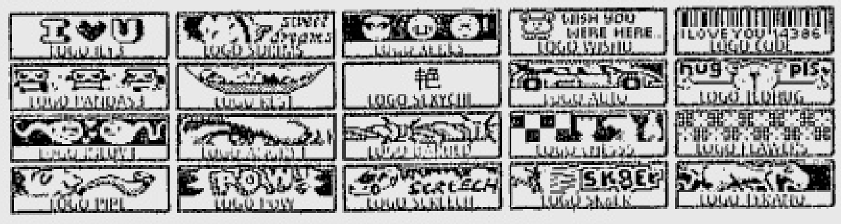


We never run out.

Hitlist

I.P METEORA
LOGO LOVE
LOGO EMPTY
LOGO GOODYR
LOGO GAZE
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

1	Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb	TONE SPAG
2	Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
3	Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	TONE BROKEN
4	Foolish Heart	Nina	TONE FOOLISH
5	In Da Club	50 Cent	TONE INDACLUB
6	Faint	Linkin Park	TONE FAINT
7	I Know What You Want	Busta Rhymes And Mariah	TONE IKNOWAT
8	Like I Love You	Justin Timberlake	TONE LIKEI
9	A.D.I.D.A.S.	Killer Mike	TONE ADIDAS
10	If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE IFYOURNOT
	Beautiful	Snoop Dogg Feat Pharrel	TONE BEAUTI
	Don't Know What to Say	Ric Segreto	TONE WAT2SAY
	21 Questions	50 Cent	TONE 21QUES
	Everywhere	Michelle Branch	TONE EVERYWER
	Lets Take A Ride	Justin Timberlake	TONE TAKERIDE
	Have You Ever	S Club 7	TONE HAVEU
	Wanksta	50 Cent	TONE WANKSTA
	Under Pressure	Queen	TONE UNDERP
	Shape Of My Heart	Dominic Miller	TONE SHAPEOF
	Dancing In The Moonlight	Toploader	TONE DANCING



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PIC WOWSEXY
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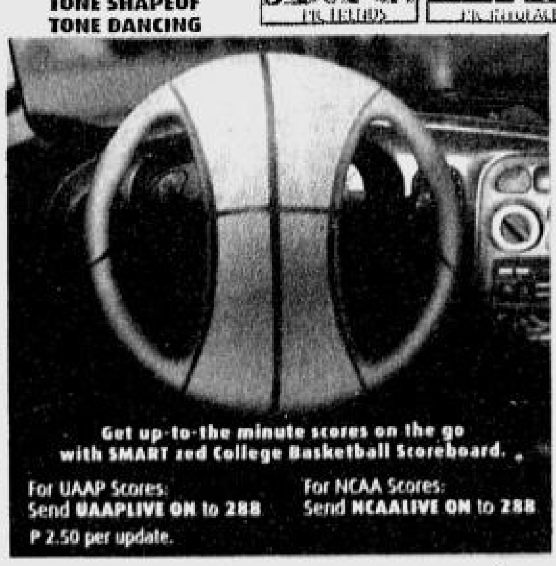

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For UAAP Scores: Send **UAAPLIVE ON** to 288
For NCAA Scores: Send **NCAALIVE ON** to 288
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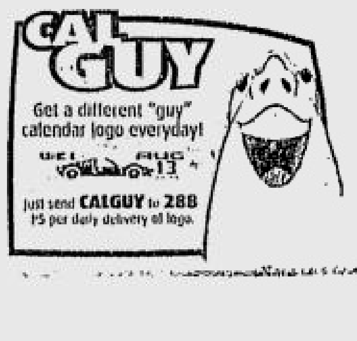
CAL GAL
Get a different "girly" calendar logo everyday!
Just send **CALGAL** to **288**
P5 per daily delivery of logo

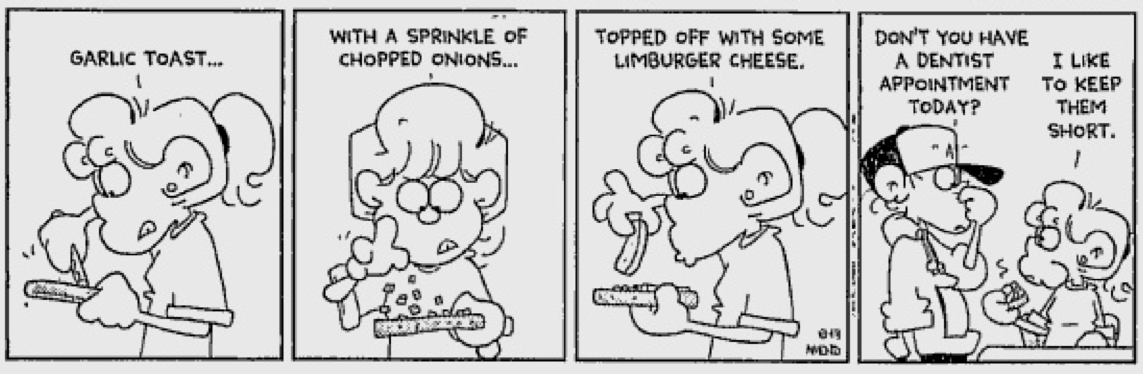


CAL GUY
Get a different "guy" calendar logo everyday!
Just send **CALGUY** to **288**
P5 per daily delivery of logo.

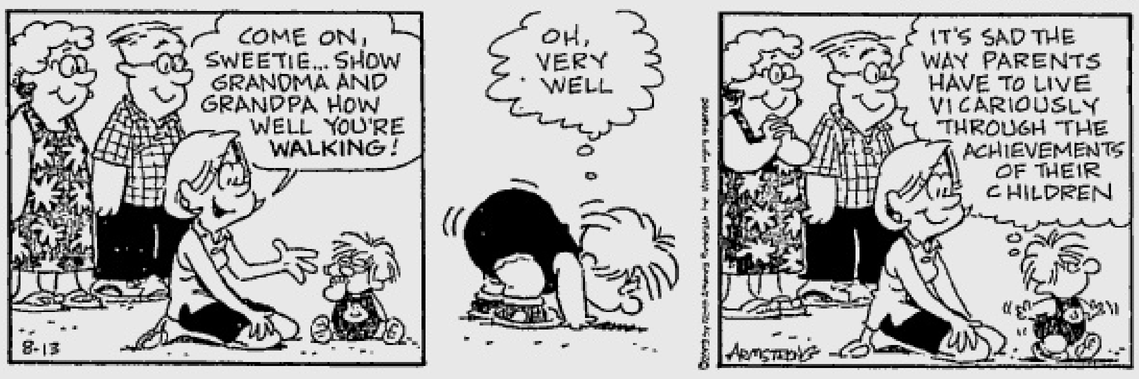
POW TONE
Get the hottest ring tone automatically delivered to your cell phone weekly.
Type **POWTONE** and send to **288**.
Featured tone of the week is **Gimme The Light** by **Sean Paul**

www.smartzed.com

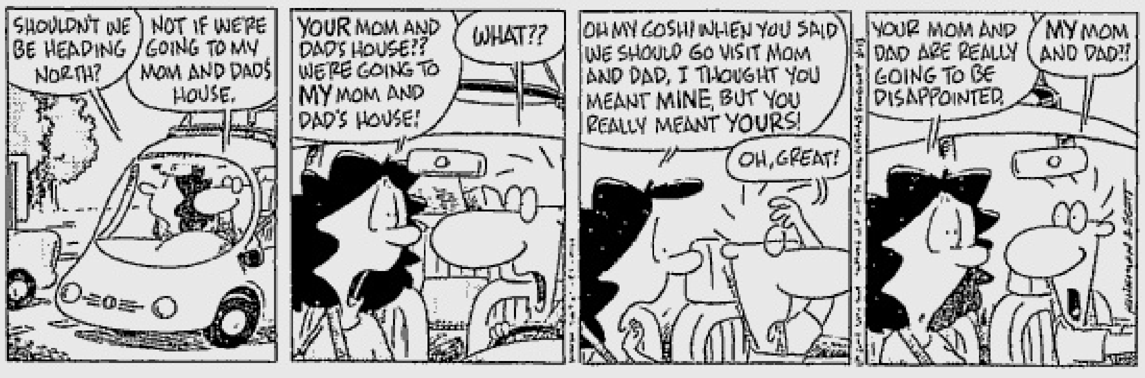
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


GARLIC TOAST...
WITH A SPRINKLE OF CHOPPED ONIONS...
TOPPED OFF WITH SOME LIMBURGER CHEESE.
DON'T YOU HAVE A DENTIST APPOINTMENT TODAY?
I LIKE TO KEEP THEM SHORT.

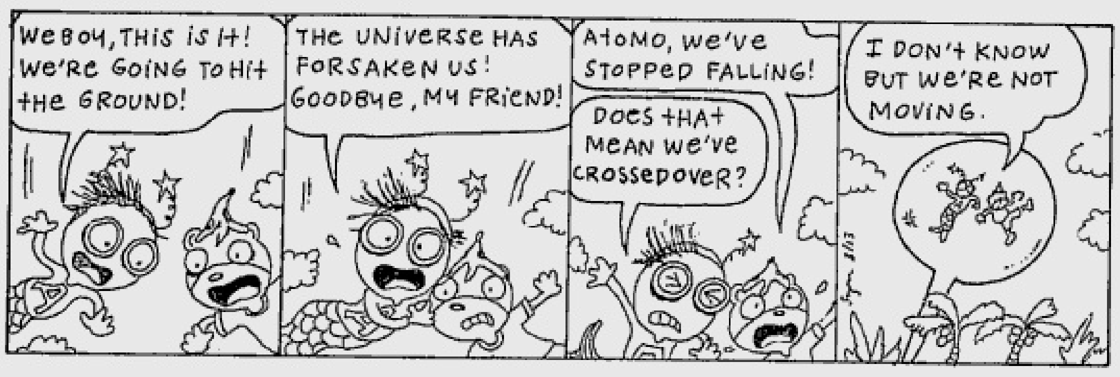
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


COME ON, SWEETIE... SHOW GRANDMA AND GRANDPA HOW WELL YOU'RE WALKING!
OH, VERY WELL
IT'S SAD THE WAY PARENTS HAVE TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THEIR CHILDREN
8-13
ARMSTRONG

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SHOULDN'T WE BE HEADING NORTH?
NOT IF WE'RE GOING TO MY MOM AND DAD'S HOUSE.
YOUR MOM AND DAD'S HOUSE?? WE'RE GOING TO MY MOM AND DAD'S HOUSE!
WHAT??
OH MY GOSH! WHEN YOU SAID WE SHOULD GO VISIT MOM AND DAD, I THOUGHT YOU MEANT MINE, BUT YOU REALLY MEANT YOURS!
OH, GREAT!
YOUR MOM AND DAD ARE REALLY GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED.
MY MOM AND DAD?!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy, THis is it! We're GOiNG To Hit the GRound!
The UNiverse HAS ForSAKeN us! GoodBye, My FRieND!
AtoMo, we've StoPPeD FALLiNG!
Does that Mean we've crossedover?
I DON'T KNOW BUT We're NOT MOViNG.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are brave and courageous. You can surmount incredible odds. Challenges simply inspire you. Because of this, you will achieve much in your life. Privately, you rebel against social mores. You have much to look forward to because the next year could be one of the most fortunate years of your life.
Birthdate of: Danny Bonaduce, actor; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, director; Don Ho, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Try to be patient with co-workers today. You are so determined that you're right about something, you're tempted to force your point of view on others. It's not worth it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be extra-patient with children today. It's easy to be too forceful. Remember that they learn not by what you say, but by what you do. Children always imitate their elders.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Friction with partners and close friends is likely today because of ego struggles. But it doesn't have to be this way. Ask yourself what you really are trying to achieve.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a fabulous day for research and intense concentration. Do not be impatient with those who interrupt you. You can get a lot done and still be pleasant with people.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Sometimes you're a big spender. Today you might feel compulsive about wanting to buy something. This is the very worst condition under which to spend your money. Right?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Try to keep an open mind on issues with family members today. You are so preoccupied with what you want, you might not be able to see what others want as well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today you have the intensity and the stick-to-itiveness to unearth secrets and come up with new answers to old problems. Your mind is like a steel trap!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might want to argue with somebody because you are convinced you're right about something. Even if this is the case, is it worth jeopardizing your friendship?

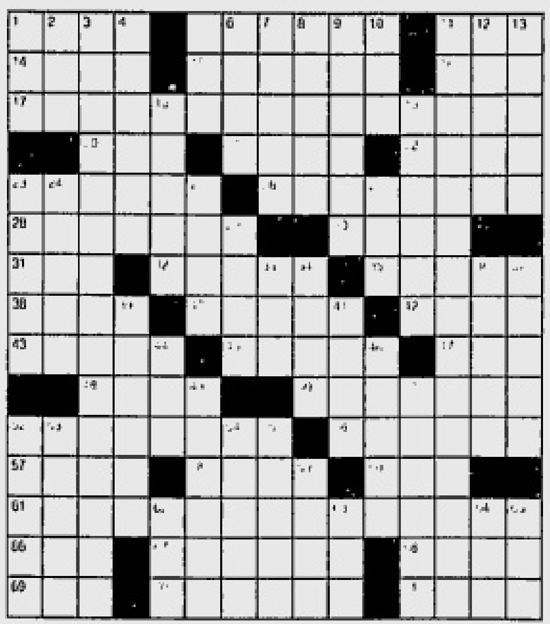
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles with authority figures arise very easily today. Armed with this knowledge, surely you can avoid something unpleasant. Demonstrate grace under pressure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't try to get others to agree with your political or religious views today. They won't listen to you. Everybody is entrenched in his or her own views today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your research skills and your ability to do painstaking, detailed work are excellent today. It's a good time to study subjects that deal with hidden or underground matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do not try to coerce others to agree with you today. Similarly, do not let others coerce you. Either way, somebody will feel frustrated by the process.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD
8/13/03

ACROSS
1 Toon frames
5 Cloud in space
11 Sault __ Marie
14 MGM founder Marcus
15 Unmelodic
16 Internet address
17 Three-piece suits?
20 Indian honorific
21 Mystic
22 Competent
23 Ink mark
26 Cutout patterns
28 Bucket in a Buick
30 Bert the Cowardly Lion
31 Hall of deux
32 State's no. 2 job
35 French measure
38 Vijay Singh's homeland
40 Fathered
42 Units of conductance
43 Wildlife
45 Clinton FBI director
47 CD's competition
48 E-mails: abbr.
50 Price before discount
52 Upper case
56 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego
57 __ in horto (motto of Chicago)
58 _ _ Hari
60 __ mitzvah
61 Three-piece suits?
66 Bounder
67 Assails
68 Roof piece
69 Kind of jazz
70 Winds up
71 In the thick of

DOWN
1 Actor Gulager
2 Long, long time
3 Three-piece suits?
4 Rapiers and foils
5 Slangy negative
6 Greek letters
7 Dullards
8 Not fulfilled
9 Bay tree
10 High mount
11 Three-piece suits?
12 Fairy-tale beast
13 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
18 Patrick or Bruce
19 Tammany bigwig
23 Shoe blemish
24 Craze
25 Beanery sign
27 SE Asian war
29 Wage-slave's letters
33 Ex-Bruin Bobby
34 Agnew, to Nixon
36 Author Dahl
37 Lauder of cosmetics
39 Demand
41 Skin: pref.
44 Writer's rep.
46 Seasonings
49 Morse or Colt
51 Type of daisy
52 Incas' "City of the Sun"
53 Boisterous
54 Roper's rope
55 Porkers' pads
59 Feed the pot
62 Eng. channel
63 Tee preceder
64 Inventor Whitney
65 Danson or Koppel

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	P	■	S	T	E	P	S	■	D	O	C	K
R	A	R	E	■	P	I	X	I	E	■	I	D	L	E
I	D	E	A	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	S	E	E	N
■	J	A	R	R	E	D	M	Y	M	E	M	O	R	Y
■	■	■	M	O	D	E	■	■	■	L	A	N	K	A
E	N	D	O	W	S	■	B	A	L	M	Y	■	■	■
L	O	U	S	E	■	E	L	S	I	■	■	Y	O	U
B	O	T	T	L	E	D	U	P	I	N	S	I	D	E
A	N	Y	■	■	M	A	R	S	■	Y	O	G	I	S
■	■	■	T	H	U	M	B	■	E	M	B	A	N	K
A	S	S	A	Y	■	■	■	L	I	P	S	■	■	■
C	A	N	N	E	D	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	■
C	H	I	C	■	R	O	U	G	H	■	O	P	A	L
R	I	D	E	■	E	G	R	E	T	■	R	E	N	O
A	B	E	L	■	W	E	A	R	Y	■	Y	E	G	G

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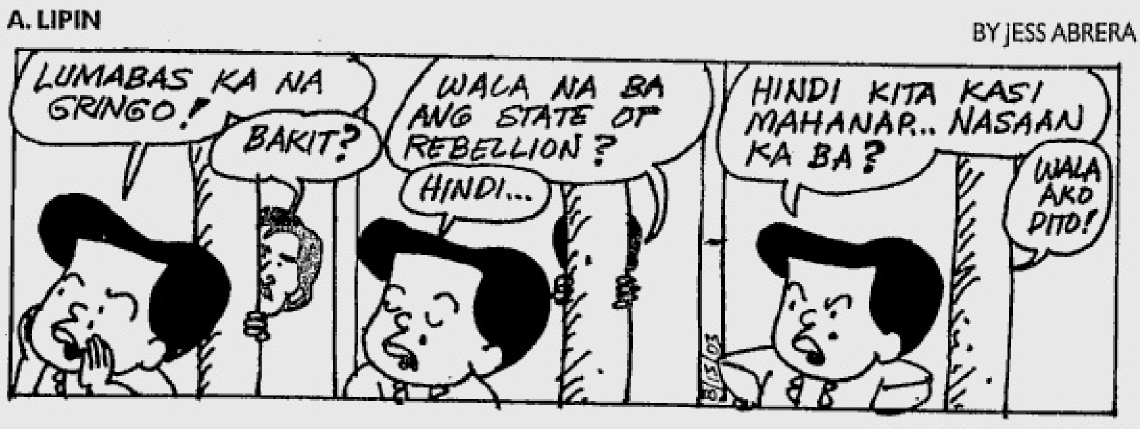
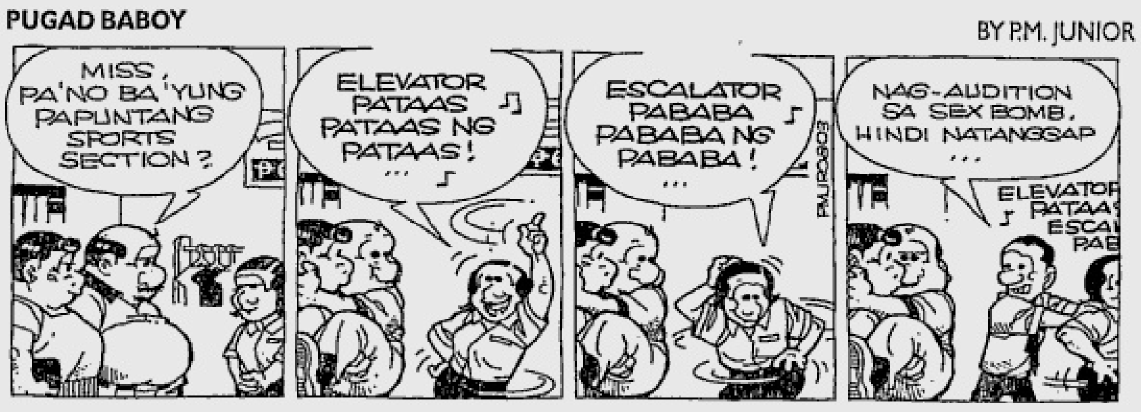
8/13/03

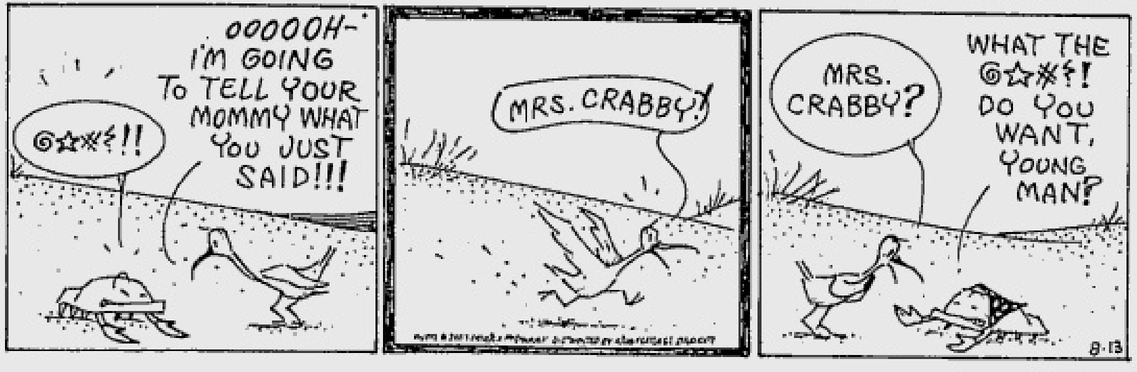
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


LUMABAS KA NA GRINGO!
BAKIT?
WALA NA BA ANG STATE OF REBELLION?
HINDI...
HINDI KITA KASI MAHANAP... NASAAN KA BA?
WALA AKO DITO!
8/13/03

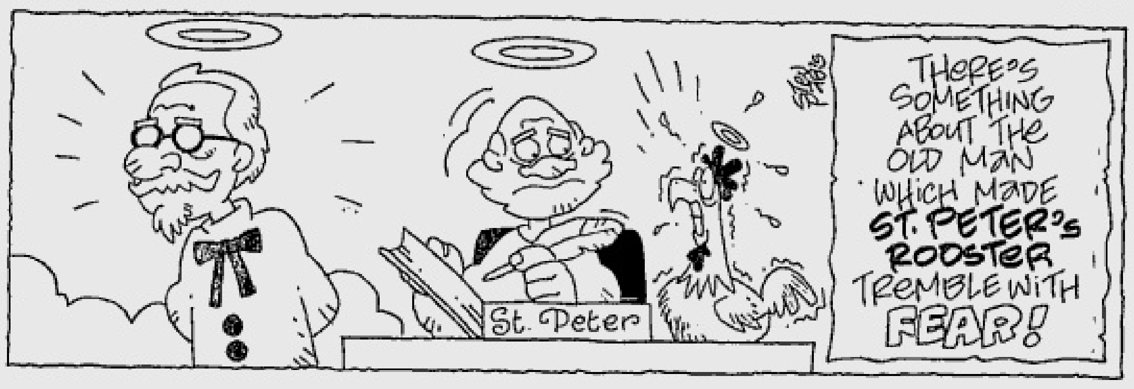
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS, PA'NO BA 'YUNG PAPUNTANG SPORTS SECTION?
ELEVATOR PATAAS PATAAS NG PATAAS! ...
ESCALATOR PABABA PABABA NG PABABA! ...
NAG-AUDITION SA SEX BOMB, HINDI NATANGGAP ...
ELEVATOR PATAAS
ESCA
PAB
PMJR0803

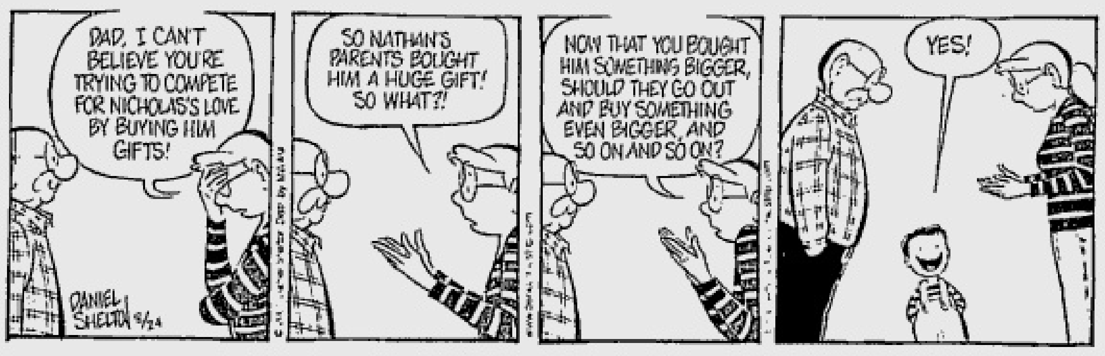
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


G☆*#!!
OOOOOH- I'M GOING TO TELL YOUR MOMMY WHAT YOU JUST SAID!!!
MRS. CRABBY!
MRS. CRABBY?
WHAT THE G☆*#!! DO YOU WANT, YOUNG MAN?
8-13

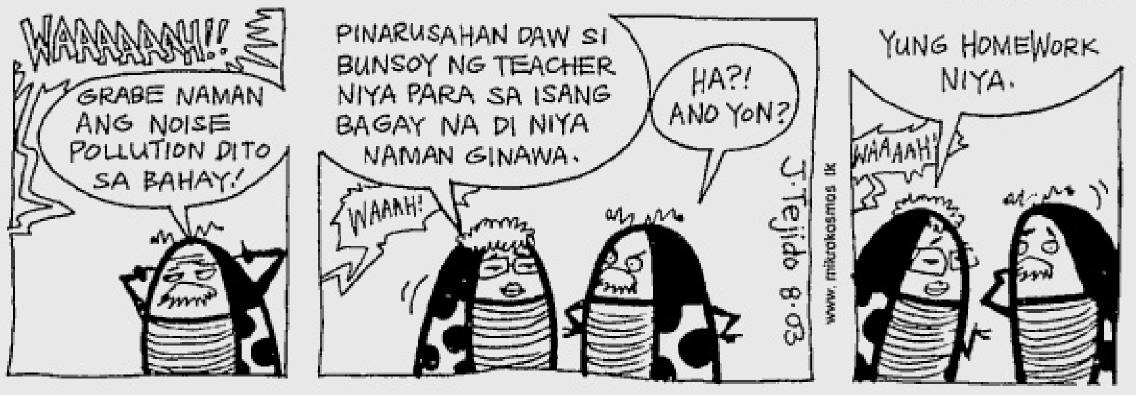
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


St. Peter
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLD MAN WHICH MADE ST. PETER'S ROOSTER TREMBLE WITH FEAR!

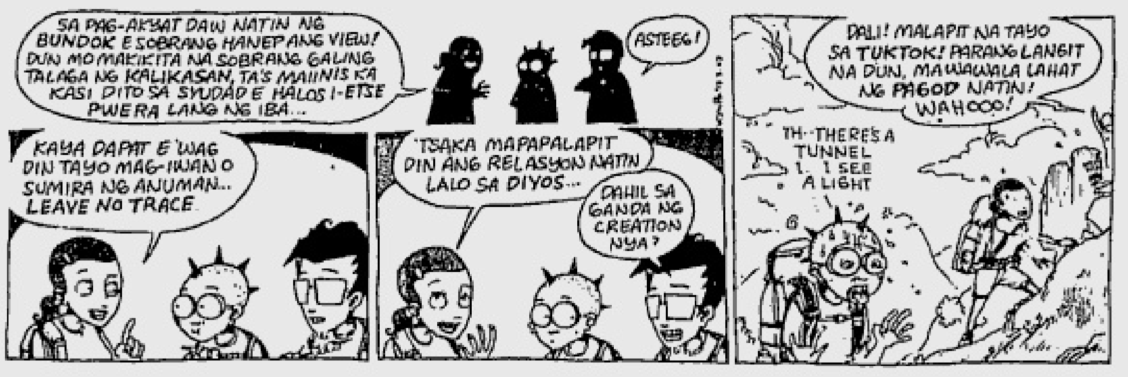
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO COMPETE FOR NICHOLAS'S LOVE BY BUYING HIM GIFTS!
SO NATHAN'S PARENTS BOUGHT HIM A HUGE GIFT! SO WHAT?!
NOW THAT YOU BOUGHT HIM SOMETHING BIGGER, SHOULD THEY GO OUT AND BUY SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER, AND SO ON AND SO ON?
YES!
DANIEL SHELTON 5/24

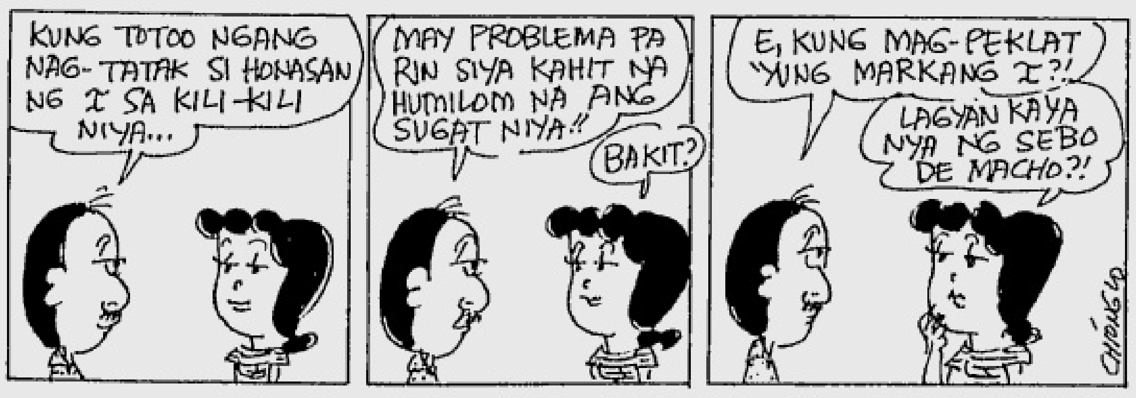
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WAAAAAAH!!
GRABE NAMAN ANG NOISE POLLUTION DITO SA BAHAY!
PINARUSAHAN DAW SI BUNSOY NG TEACHER NIYA PARA SA ISANG BAGAY NA DI NIYA NAMAN GINAWA.
WAAAH!
HA?! ANO YON?
J. Tejido 8.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
YUNG HOMEWORK NIYA.
WAAAAH!

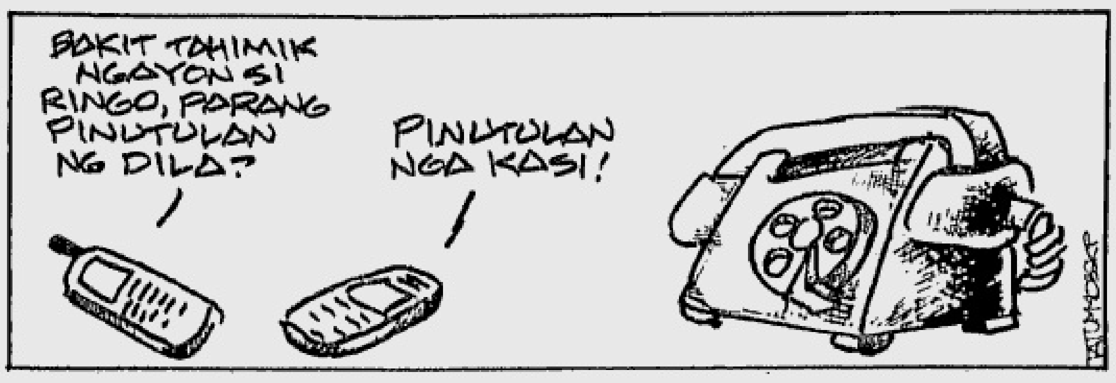
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


SA PAG-AKYAT DAW NATIN NG BUNDOK E SOBRANG HANEP ANG VIEW! DUN MO MAKIKITA NA SOBRANG GALING TALAGA NG KALIKASAN, TA'S MAIINIS KA KASI DITO SA SYUDAD E HALOS I-ETSE PWERA LANG NG IBA...
ASTEEG!
KAYA DAPAT E 'WAG DIN TAYO MAG-IWAN O SUMIRA NG ANUMAN... LEAVE NO TRACE
TSAKA MAPAPALAPIT DIN ANG RELASYON NATIN LALO SA DIYOS...
DAHIL SA GANDA NG CREATION NYA?
DALI! MALAPIT NA TAYO SA TUKTOK! PARANG LANGIT NA DUN, MAWAWALA LAHAT NG PAGOD NATIN! WAHOOO!
TH-THERE'S A TUNNEL I... I SEE A LIGHT

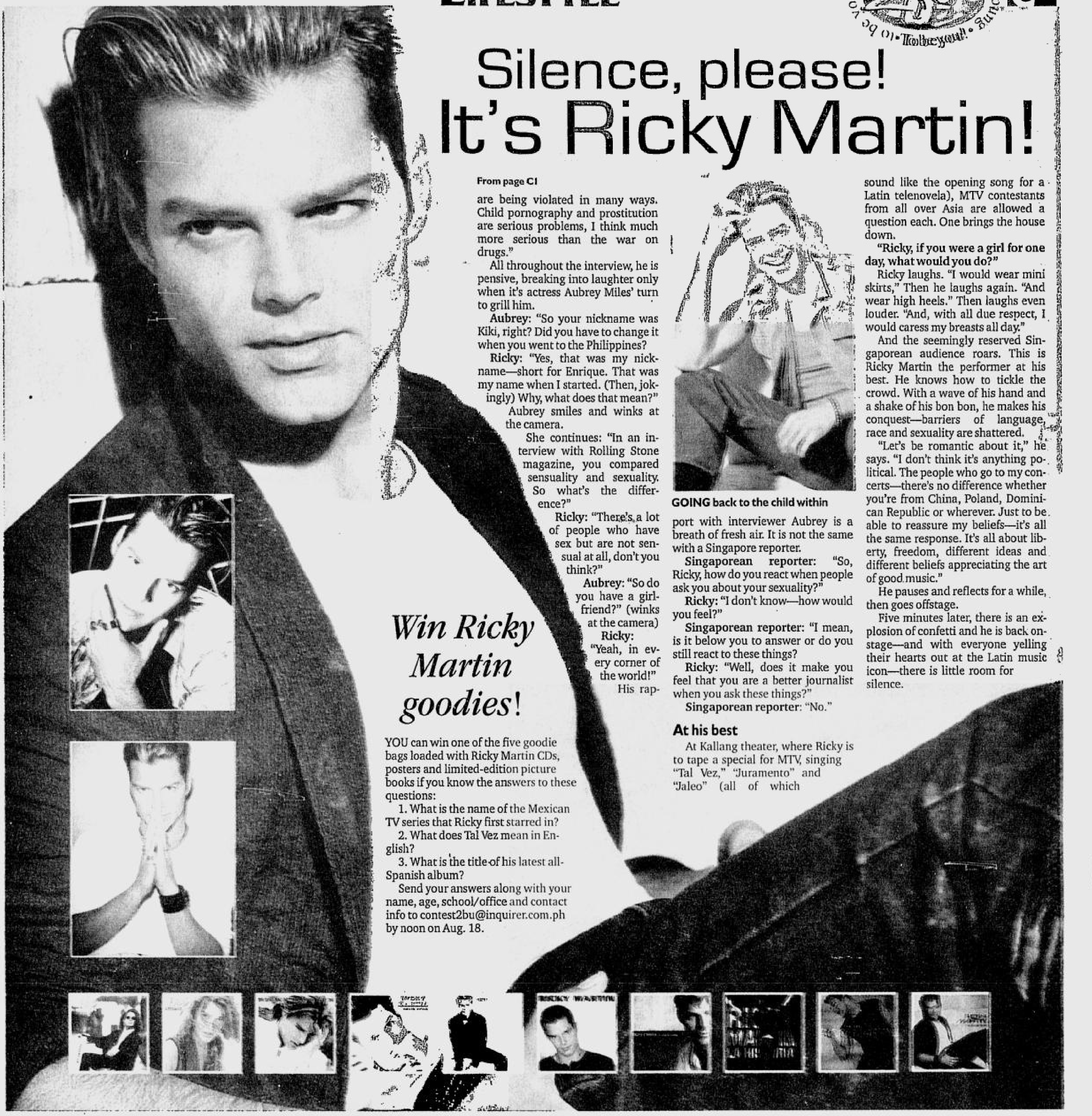
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG TOTOO NGANG NAG-TATAK SI HONASAN NG I SA KILI-KILI NIYA...
MAY PROBLEMA PA RIN SIYA KAHIT NA HUMILOM NA ANG SUGAT NIYA!!
BAKIT?
E, KUNG MAG-PEKLAT 'YUNG MARKANG I?!
LAGYAN KAYA NYA NG SEBO DE MACHO?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT TAHIMIK NGAYON SI RINGO, PARANG PINUTULAN NG DILA?
PINUTULAN NGA KASI!
TATUM

Silence, please! It's Ricky Martin!



GOING back to the child within

From page C1

are being violated in many ways. Child pornography and prostitution are serious problems, I think much more serious than the war on drugs."

All throughout the interview, he is pensive, breaking into laughter only when it's actress Aubrey Miles' turn to grill him.

Aubrey: "So your nickname was Kiki, right? Did you have to change it when you went to the Philippines?

Ricky: "Yes, that was my nickname—short for Enrique. That was my name when I started. (Then, jokingly) Why, what does that mean?"

Aubrey smiles and winks at the camera.

She continues: "In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, you compared sensuality and sexuality. So what's the difference?"

Ricky: "There's a lot of people who have sex but are not sensual at all, don't you think?"

Aubrey: "So do you have a girlfriend?" (winks at the camera)

Ricky: "Yeah, in every corner of the world!"

His rapport with interviewer Aubrey is a breath of fresh air. It is not the same with a Singapore reporter.

Singaporean reporter: "So, Ricky, how do you react when people ask you about your sexuality?"

Ricky: "I don't know—how would you feel?"

Singaporean reporter: "I mean, is it below you to answer or do you still react to these things?

Ricky: "Well, does it make you feel that you are a better journalist when you ask these things?"

Singaporean reporter: "No."

At his best

At Kallang theater, where Ricky is to tape a special for MTV, singing "Tal Vez," "Juramento" and "Jaleo" (all of which sound like the opening song for a Latin telenovela), MTV contestants from all over Asia are allowed a question each. One brings the house down.

"Ricky, if you were a girl for one day, what would you do?"

Ricky laughs. "I would wear mini skirts," Then he laughs again. "And wear high heels." Then laughs even louder. "And, with all due respect, I would caress my breasts all day."

And the seemingly reserved Singaporean audience roars. This is Ricky Martin the performer at his best. He knows how to tickle the crowd. With a wave of his hand and a shake of his bon bon, he makes his conquest—barriers of language, race and sexuality are shattered.

"Let's be romantic about it," he says. "I don't think it's anything political. The people who go to my concerts—there's no difference whether you're from China, Poland, Dominican Republic or wherever. Just to be able to reassure my beliefs—it's all the same response. It's all about liberty, freedom, different ideas and different beliefs appreciating the art of good music."

He pauses and reflects for a while, then goes offstage.

Five minutes later, there is an explosion of confetti and he is back onstage—and with everyone yelling their hearts out at the Latin music icon—there is little room for silence.

Win Ricky Martin goodies!

YOU can win one of the five goodie bags loaded with Ricky Martin CDs, posters and limited-edition picture books if you know the answers to these questions:

1. What is the name of the Mexican TV series that Ricky first starred in?
2. What does Tal Vez mean in English?
3. What is the title of his latest all-Spanish album?

Send your answers along with your name, age, school/office and contact info to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph by noon on Aug. 18.

Does Jerry...

From page C4

Jack Davenport, the British actor who has a supporting turn as a commodore in "Pirates of the Caribbean," recalls hitting the beach during his downtime on the production and then running into Bruckheimer.

"On the first day of shooting in the Caribbean, I was sitting on the beach and Jerry walked past," he says. "And I was like, 'Aren't you on the set?' And he was like, 'Nah, it'll be fine.' His attitude is, you hire the best people and let them get on with it. He is there, but he's not there meddling. He's a benign and occasionally present presence."

While Bruckheimer's movies seem to be an all-boys club, this hasn't stopped some leading ladies from joining in on the action.

"I think that I immediately ingratiated myself, and they recognized it," says Gabrielle Union, who plays the narcotics agent in "Bad Boys II."

"Before the movie even started, we'd all be hanging out. And I'd be the one like, 'One more drink! Come on! It's only three o'clock.' They weren't going to have to slow down for me to catch up. If anything, they'd have to speed up to catch up with my ass. So I immediately fit in," she adds.

Still, there's no doubt as to what a Bruckheimer set is all about. Keira Knightley, the stunning Natalie Portman look-alike who unleashes the titular curse in "Pirates," notes: "On a Jerry Bruckheimer film, if you turn up in the morning and another ship is exploding, then it's a normal day in the office really, which is really kind of strange."

Despite his success as a producer, Bruckheimer says he doesn't aspire to become a studio executive.

"An executive deals with pain 24 hours a day," he says. "Nobody calls a studio executive and tells him something's going well. They always either want something. They want you to pick up their script or they want more money to shoot another scene. It's always pain."

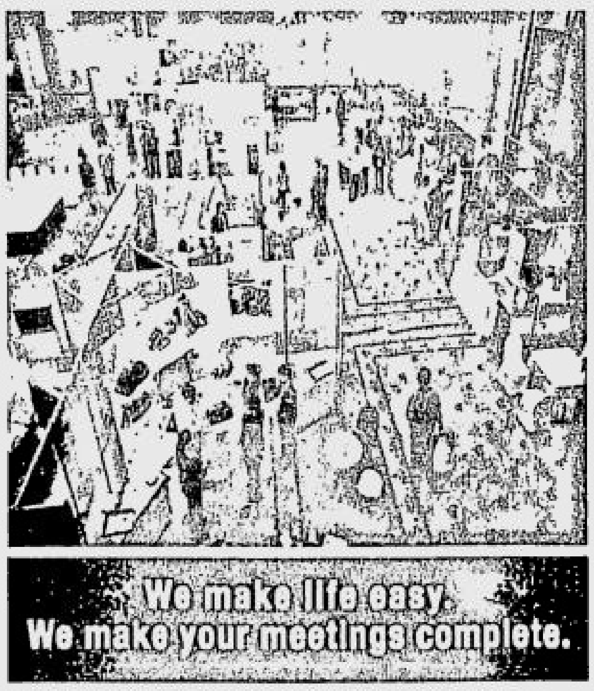
The stress alone of producing a movie (or, as was the case with "Pirates" and "Bad Boys II," a tandem of would-be hits) is enough for Bruckheimer.

"[Studio executives'] pleasure is bifurcated because they're making between 15 and 20 movies a year," he says. "Every single weekend, they're gonna have some movie in the marketplace that's either gonna be a big one or a big loser. I don't wanna get up every Saturday morning and hear that the movie didn't open. It's bad enough to do it two or three times a year. I don't need to go through it 15 or 20 times a year."

So while Bruckheimer's impressive track record leaves no doubt that he has something of a box-office Midas touch—at least of the mainstream, commercial sort—the producer tries not to get too cushy.

During the two or three times a year that he does wake up on a Saturday morning to get his film's box-office returns, he just keeps his fingers crossed.

"You don't have a clue," he says. "There were only two pictures I felt that would really do well. One was 'Beverly Hills Cop' and the other one was 'Armageddon.' And the rest of them, I don't have a clue what they're gonna do. You'll never know. You really don't."



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PROGRAM

10am OPENING
10am - 12nn MEETINGS THAT WORK
MARKETING PHILIPPINES, INC.
By: Ms. Rosvi Gaetos, Acting Executive Director
PHILIPPINE CONVENTION & VISITORS CORP.
CULTURE AND BUSINESS
The Answer Is Within Us
By: Ms. Alice Pañares, Deputy Director
National Educators Academy of The Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
3pm - 5pm TECH TRENDS IN BUSINESS
MAKING E-BUSINESS WORK
Web Based Marketing with Web Philippines Inc.
WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY
Modern Tools for the Meetings Professionals
5pm - 6pm CHANNELS MARKETING
MARKETING THROUGH FASHION, MUSIC, WEB, PHONES, Etc.
By: Dr. Tomas Lopez
Professor, ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
6pm - 7pm ENSEMBLES
Featuring Top Philippine Fashion Brands
7pm - 10pm MORE EXHIBITS

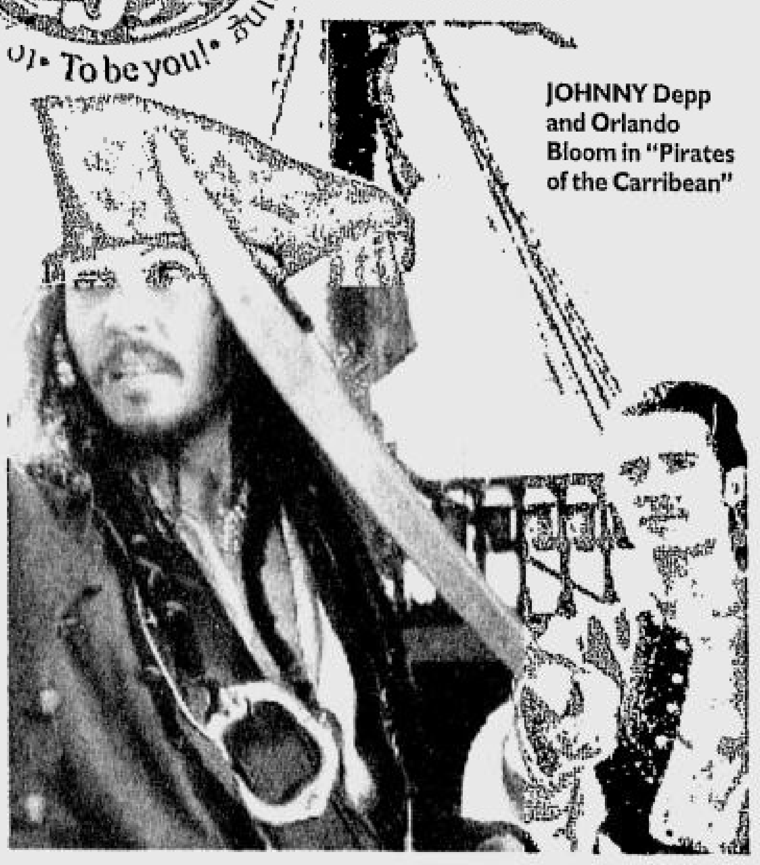
RAFFLE: Three trips for two to any domestic destination of your choice

Direction & Choreography by: ROBBY CARMONA of SAGA

For inquiries please call Maricar or Shalu at 832-6999

Does Jerry Bruckheimer rule Hollywood?

By Alexis L. Loinaz
2bU! Contributor



JOHNNY Depp and Orlando Bloom in "Pirates of the Carribean"

IN THE OLD days, the formula for success in Hollywood used to be quite simple: Make one high-profile film. Cast an A-list star. Have a huge opening weekend. Rake in a hundred million dollars.

That was in the old days—the old days being last month, that is. With the one-two box-office punch of "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and "Bad Boys II," the equation has changed considerably.

In the US, both films opened spectacularly within a week of each other—each grossing about $46 million during their first weekends. Both films snagged the top two box-office spots in mid-July. Both are well on their way to becoming 2003's biggest moneymakers.

Oh, and both films were produced by the same guy: Jerry Bruckheimer.

With this double whammy, Bruckheimer has raised the bar for success: He has become the first producer in recent memory to have the top two films in the US, an unprecedented feat given that one is a swashbuckling saga based on a theme-park ride while the other is a sequel to a film released eight years ago.

Then again, Bruckheimer's career has always been about more, more, more.

The über producer's press kits constantly (and breathlessly) trumpet that he is "one of the most successful producers of all time"—but it's no empty boast.

> Despite his track record, the blockbuster producer says he can't predict whether a movie will work or not

Bruckheimer is responsible for such splashy box-office hits as "Top Gun," "Beverly Hills Cop," "The Rock," "Con Air," "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor," among others.

His films have generated revenues of over $12 billion worldwide. And he has expanded his empire to include television; his shows, "C.S.I." and "Without a Trace," are Nielsen top 10 regulars.

In June, when he spoke to the INQUIRER in Miami, where he was promoting "Bad Boys II," he had five films and 17 TV series in development simultaneously.

As he put it, "I make movies I wanna go see. I don't make movies for anybody else because I don't have a clue what the public wants. Anybody that thinks they do is gonna fail. Because you just can't predict. The audience changes every 10 minutes."

Although Bruckheimer appears to downplay his awareness of audiences' sensibilities, his track record indicates that he has his finger squarely on the pulse of mainstream moviegoers. Critics may routinely deride his films for being loud, vapid and pandering, but swelling box-office numbers don't lie: Many of Bruckheimer's movies have opened at No. 1.

Audiences apparently want to see his films—whether out of curiosity, because of hype or for the sheer star power that a Bruckheimer production attracts. It doesn't matter that they're high-octane instead of high-concept. Moviegoers literally get a bang (or fifty) for their buck.

Bruckheimer makes no apologies for the commercial slant of his films. In 1998, he told the New York Times that "the same critic who likes 'My Dinner With Andre' is not going to have the same response to 'Armageddon'... I make popular entertainment... If critics don't like popular entertainment, they shouldn't be reviewing it."

Advertising man

Interestingly—or rather, naturally—Bruckheimer got his start in advertising. He was a commercial producer in his native Detroit before moving to New York, where he worked on Madison Avenue for four years.

In the '70s, he made his way to Hollywood, where he produced several obscure films before gaining momentum in 1980 with "American Gigolo," which starred a then unknown actor named Richard Gere.

It was in 1983 when he began a smashing 13-year collaboration with fellow producer Don Simpson, that Bruckheimer finally hit pay dirt.

They did the leg-warmer-and-off-the-shoulder hoofer epic, "Flashdance." The two would enjoy a winning streak (which included "Top Gun" and the first two "Beverly Hills Cop" films) until Simpson died of a drug overdose in 1996.

In fact, a year before Simpson's death, they scored an *annus mirabilis* with a triumvirate of releases, all hits: "Bad Boys," "Dangerous Minds" and "Crimson Tide."

Bruckheimer's advertising roots, however, may account for the slick, mass-consumable quality of his films, complete with the catchy pop soundtrack. In essence, his movies are like products: They're conceptualized, created, packaged and sold with a particular audience in mind.

Bruckheimer himself liberally sprinkles his interviews with advertising lingo such as "consumer," "concept" and "selling position."

"I learned a lot about filmmaking through working with various directors, art directors and copywriters," he says. "And I also understand how you approach an audience with a concept. Movies are more difficult than a product because a product is there forever. I sold Pepsi and Pepsi will always be on shelves. Movies aren't on shelves for very long. So you really [need] a strong selling position... to try to find a way in and keep the message real clear and not confuse the consumer."

Ironically, although most of Bruckheimer's films have been hyperadrenalized, testosterone-infused bonanzas, the producer is disarmingly calm and Zen-like in person.

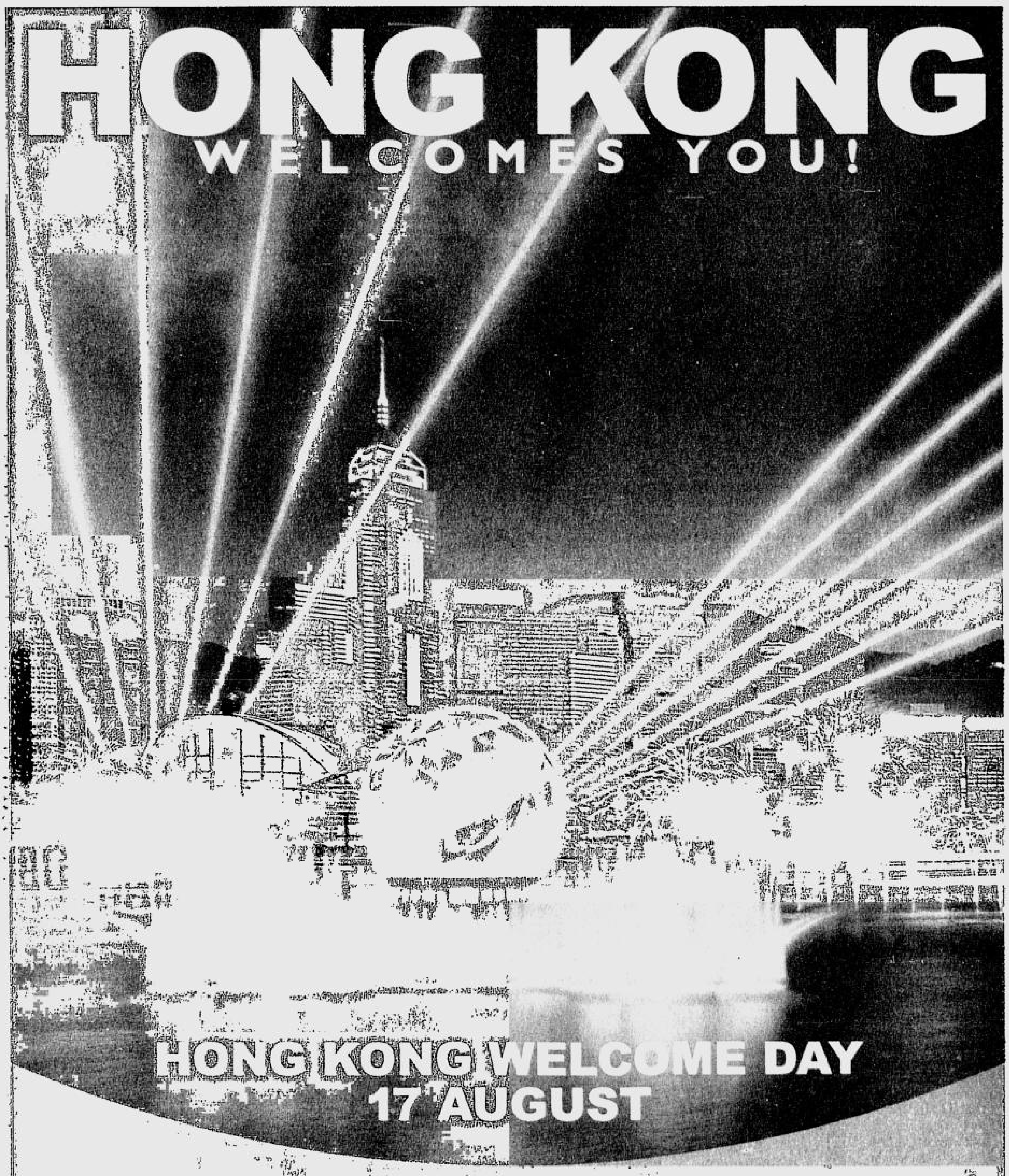
During the interview, he was dressed simply in a purple shirt and jeans. Bruckheimer has a deep, modulated voice that reminds one of a therapist's. His sentences have an easy, languid cadence, and his answers are perfectly composed.

And when he discusses his work, he does so in such an easygoing manner that it's easy to forget he's referring to an industry whose high stakes mean millions of dollars in potential revenues—or losses.

Relaxed

Apparently, this demeanor finds its way onto the set as well, where Bruckheimer has developed a reputation for being a relaxed, hands-off boss.

DOES/ C3



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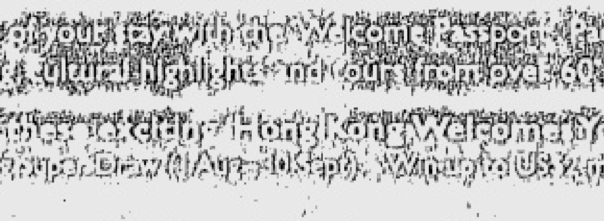

LIFESTYLE
to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you! • 25

MTV does Pinoy pop culture

First-time winner Kamikazee shares the stage with clowns, transvestites and Kuya Germs in this year's awards bash

Text and photos by Maui V. Reyes

MITCH Singson of Sugarfree stood near the red carpet at the NBC Tent, waving at everyone who came in.

It was Aug. 6, MTV Pilipinas 2003, and while Mitch kept going "Hi! Hi!" to the celebrities who walked by, the boys of Rivermaya and their girlfriends were downing the free booze at the VIP area, while nominees Imago were nowhere to be found (they're laying down tracks in the studio for their second album).

I asked Rivermaya manager Lizza Nakpil if she thinks the boys will bag another trophy this year (their videos, directed by Lyle Sacris, have always taken home an award or two in the past two years).

"I think we'll get one," she says.

Indeed, a look at the nominees pretty much spells out "success" for the band. This is, after all, MTV, and the winners are just as predictable as the boys of Parokya ni Edgar getting drunk at every awards show.

Duets and Diether 'moments'

VJ KC Concepcion opened the show with a recorded greeting. The theme was Pinoy pop culture, and the stage was set to look like a giant comic book, with a *sari-sari* store at one corner and a basketball hoop on the other.

The show's hosts, Rufa Mae Quinto and Ogie Alcasid, introduced the first performer, Regine Velasquez, who did a surprise duet with Greyhoundz.

Strapped to a harness and pulled up in the air, Regine's act came across as an Evanescence-esque performance.

It could have rocked, but it's already been done: the diva (Christina Aguilera) + rockstar (Fred Durst)= surprise performance (2000 MTV VMA's).

"[The harness] was okay," Regine later confessed. "It's just that it wasn't built for my body, so it was a bit uncomfortable."

And what did she think of her duet with the band? "It was great! It was the first time I did a duet with Slapshock, and they were great!"

Slapshock? Um, okay... She was, however, happy for Nina, who bagged the first award (Favorite New Artist).

I asked her if she'd like to be involved in a "VH1 Divas Live"-like production. "No one's thought of that yet, but I'd love to be part of it!" And who does she hope to win an award? "I hope Kyla wins!" she gushes. Um, that's great... if she was nominated.

First presenters TJ Manotoc and Cindy Kurleto almost pulled off a Diether Ocampo (remember the 2002 NU Rock Awards?). While TJ tried to get Cindy's attention to present the award, some guys in the mosh pit started screaming for Cindy.

"Guys, I'm trying to talk to Cindy!" TJ said into the mic, much to the mosh pit's smirks. Oops, you wouldn't want to go there.

Best New Artist Nina was rooting for someone else. "I'd like Imago to win, because Aia's voice is great," she shared. "And of course, Barbie's Cradle, because they're my labelmates... and Kamikazee!"

Too bad for her, Lizza's prediction came true when Rivermaya got the Favorite Group award.

'What was that?!'

There were drag queens, midgets and basketball players prancing around the stage every so often. By the end of the night, the occasional transvestite onstage wasn't much of a surprise anymore.

After Slapshock's performance and a gap that seemed like forever, Sugar-

MTV/ D4

"PARE, *'di ka taga*-Maya..." Chito Miranda of Parokya ni Edgar accepts the award for Rivermaya member Mark Escueta

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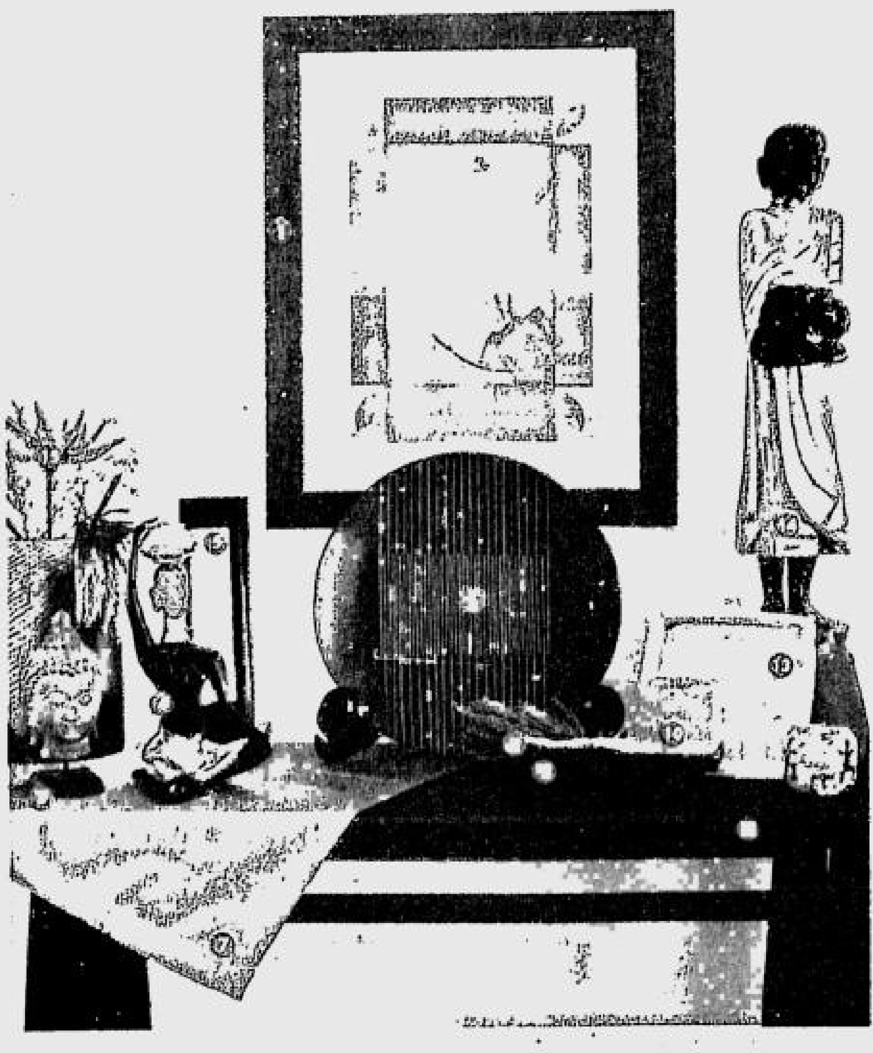

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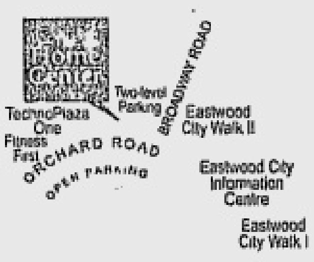

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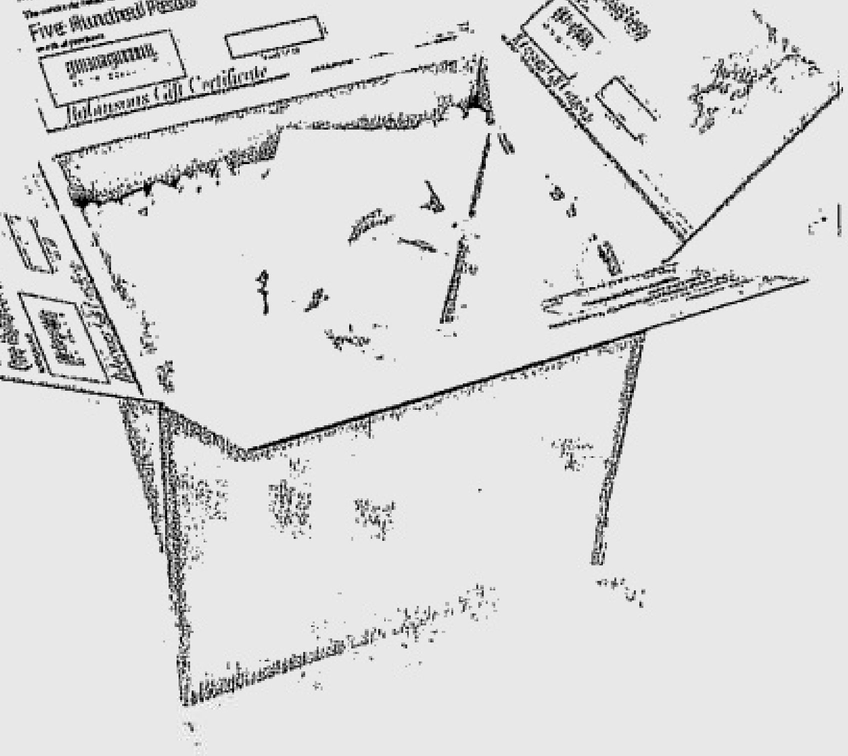

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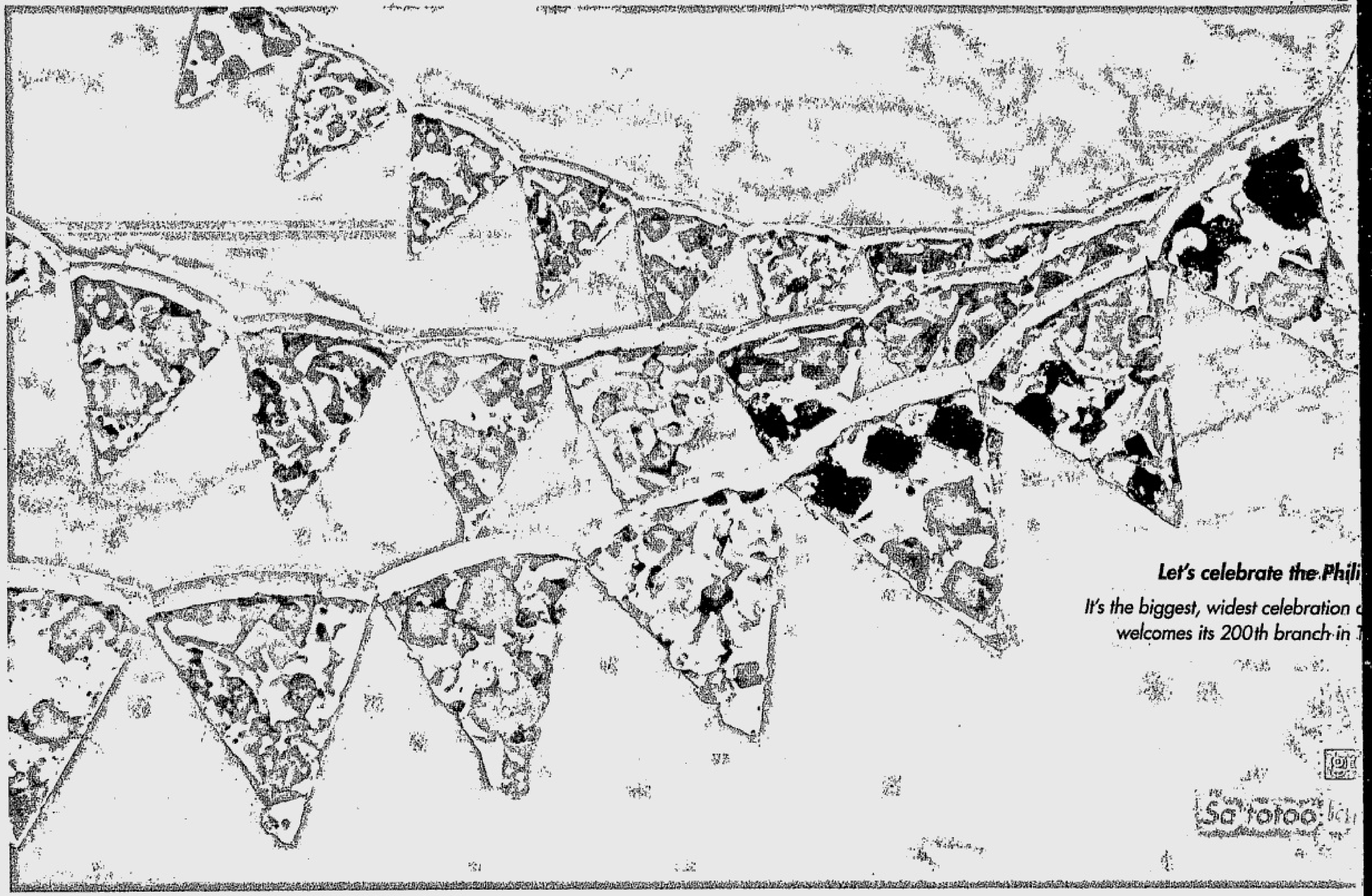
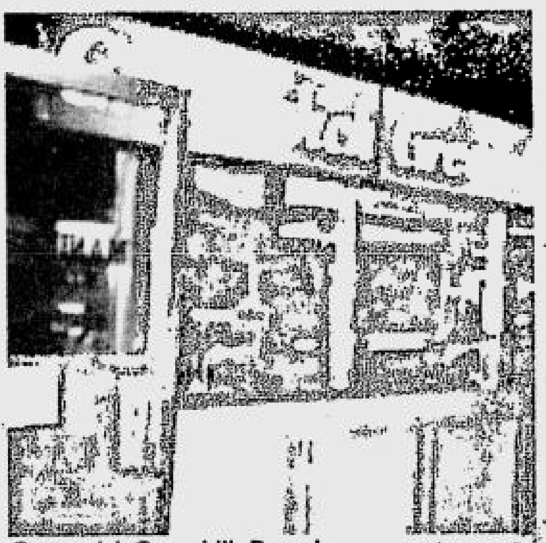

Let's celebrate the Phili
It's the biggest, widest celebration
welcomes its 200th branch in
Sa totoo

greenwich
Sa totoo lang, 200 na!

Greenwich, the countr opens its 200th sto

Text by Joel V. Nigos

Greenwich- known by young and old as the country's number one pizza fastfood chain and enjoyed by people from as far north as Tuguegarao and as far south as General Santos- opens its 200th branch in the Kalaw-Orosa area in Manila


Greenwich Greenhills Branch

STARTED by Cresida Tueres in 1971, Greenwich was just an over-the-counter pizza store located in the Greenhills Commercial Center. Adults today have fond memories of eating its simplebut delicious pizzas with family and friends. Greenwich was small and home-grown, but Tueres' energetic and entrepreneurial spirit propelled it to wide and steady growth. In a few years, Greenwich has established its first 50 branches.

In 1994, the obvious potential of Greenwich caught the interest of fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC). JFC acquired 80 percent of the pizza company. From then on, Greenwich marked one milestone after another.

Today, Greenwich- known by young and old as the country's number one pizza fastfood chain and enjoyed by people from as far north as Tuguegarao and as far south as General Santos- opens its 200th branch in the Kalaw-Orosa area in Manila.

Secret of Success

Gina Navarrete, General Manager of Greenwich Pizza Corp., shares their secret for success: "We have the best combination of products, value for money and accessibility--three essential elements in the food industry." She explains further why Greenwich has stayed on top despite tough competition in the industry: "Our products are continuously tested to ensure that our customers prefer them over our competitors. Our service is fast, friendly and efficient, and we make sure that our customers dine in stores that are clean and comfortable to allow them to have a wonderful dining experience."

General manager for Greenwich Pizza Corp., Gina B. Navarrete

Yam B. Gruet, Greenwich director for operations gives credit to their hardworking and dedicated team members who are key in propelling Greenwich to the top. "We will help them to continue to be motivated as we also continue to innovate and improve our products and services," she says. She adds that through them, Greenwich will be able to maintain its No. 1 position.

Evolving image

Shortly after JFC acquired Greenwich, it launched a series of new packaging and store designs and advertising campaigns that boosted Greenwich's fun-loving image.

The new packaging designs were introduced in June 1995, which preceded the launch, one month after, of seven new pizza flavors. "After four months, the Greenwich marketing campaign was in full swing. With the young and the young-at-heart as the target market, a tri-media campaign was launched to reveal Greenwich's new image," Greenwich Marketing Director Cherry Caluya said. "By year-end, Greenwich has more than doubled the previous year's sales from P100 million to P200 million with a base of only 53 stores!" she adds.

The following years saw a remarkable boom in Greenwich's operations and revenues. By 1996, the number of stores had grown to 80 and the sales totaled nearly P500 million.

In September 1997, a major milestone was achieved with the opening of its 100th store in F
ended, 20 more stores were ad

In August 1999, Greenw
by adding more toppings in a
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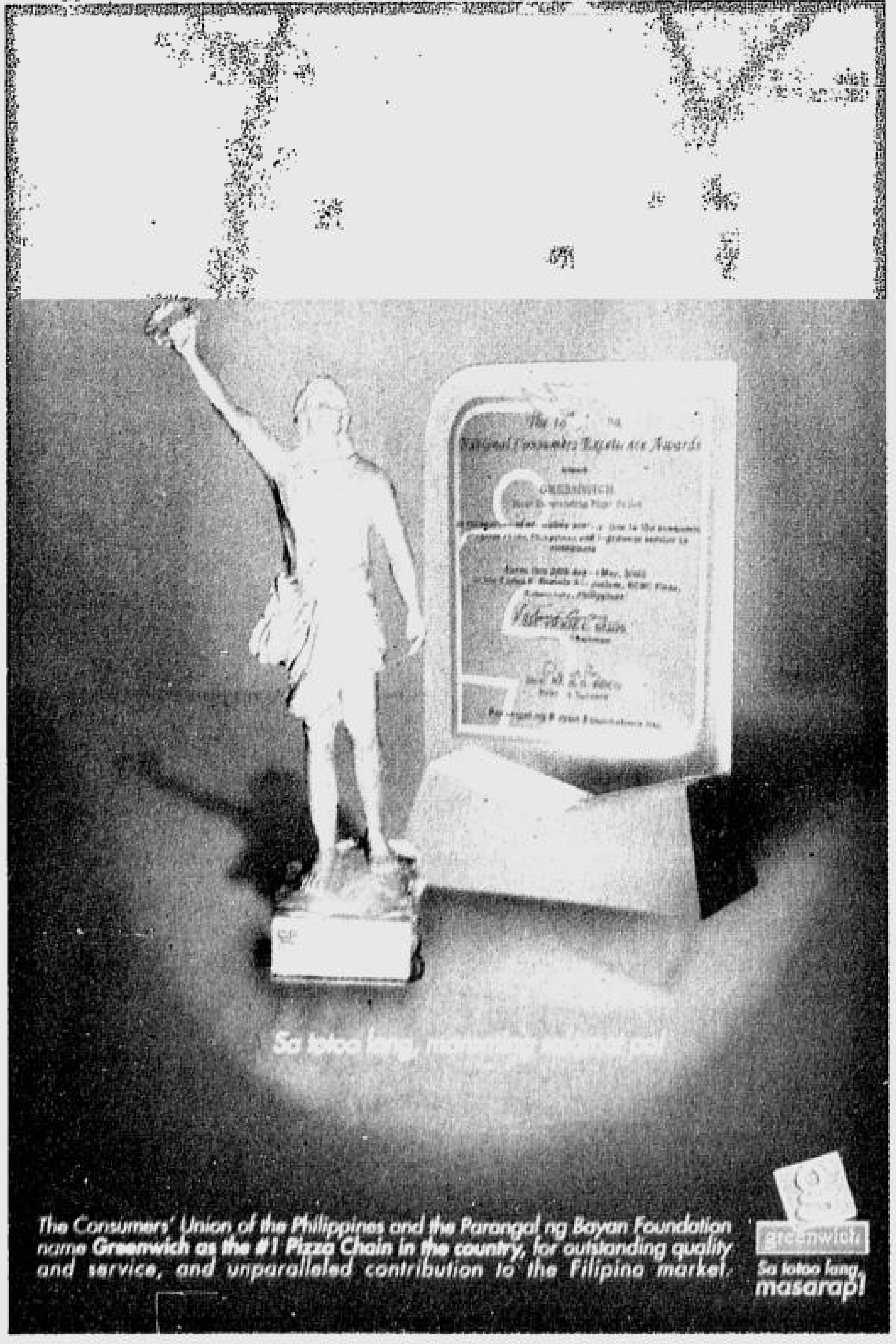
Supreme dishes were launch
Lasagna Supreme and Baked

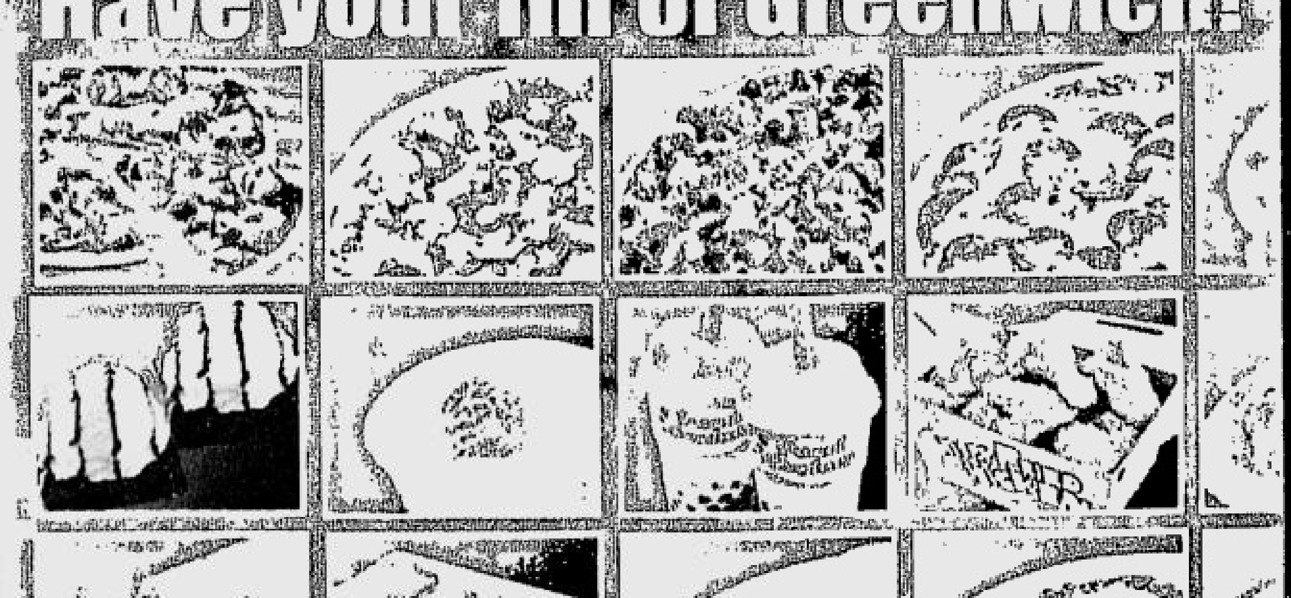
Navarrete says they still



The Consumers' Union of the Philippines and the Parangal ng Bayan Foundation name **Greenwich as the #1 Pizza Chain in the country**, for outstanding quality and service, and unparalleled contribution to the Filipino market.

greenwich
Sa totoo lang, masarap!

Have your fill of Greenwich!



PIZZA

Choose your crust! Greenwich offers a range of mouth-watering pizza flavors on the signature Original Greenwich thin crust, the Crispy Thins, the 16-slice Pizza Square and the Primo (Greenwich's thick crust, covered with mozzarella and olive oil). Pick from a range of sumptuous flavors when getting the Original Thin crust or Crispy Thins: Ham and Cheese, a pizza deliciously covered in cheese and heavenly spiced ham slices * Hawaiian, a truly tropical twist with spiced ham, cheese and pineapple tidbits * Garden Fresh, a vegetable delight with a cheese layer lovingly sprinkled with garden fresh mushrooms, green bell peppers and onions * Pepperoni Overload, with loads and loads of pepperoni for that zesty taste, * Pizzaburger Deluxe, a bacon burger sensation with cheese, mushrooms, onions, tasty beef and bacon toppings * Greenwich Special with delightful toppings of mushrooms, green bell peppers, onions, pineapple spiced ham, beef and pepperoni * Mozzarella Garlic, for mouth-watering garlic-flavored pizza topped with thick mozzarella * Pizza Italia, the thin crust pizza in Italian tradition!

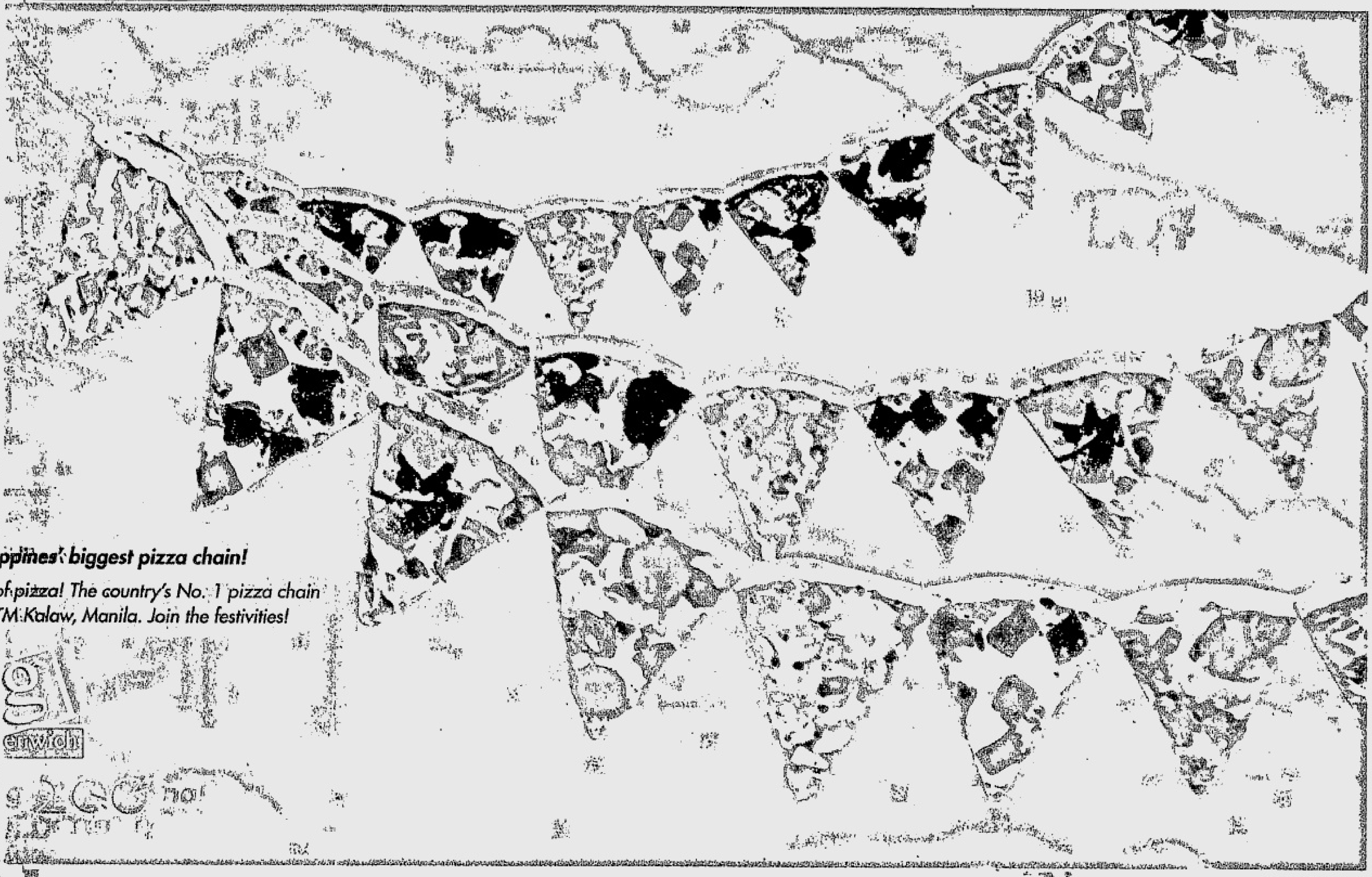
Enjoy the Primo in three flavors: the Primo Classic, a premium pizza with thick crust and mozzarella cheese, sautéed vegetable in olive oil,cooked ham, Italian sausage, bacon, mushroom, onion, green bell pepper and special cheese; the All-Meat Primo with its all-meat toppings, pepperoni, beef, bacon, spiced ham, plus mozzarella cheese, mushrooms and onion and Pepperoni Overload- for an overdose of yummy pepperoni and mozzarella!

PASTA

So Meaty Spaghetti is
tomato sauce with ham
oozes with delightful beef
spices topped with lay
cheese. Baked Macaroni
creamy pour-over sauce
and ham bits. There's als
white sauce sprinkled wi
the now-famous Greenwi
stick covered with butter

CHICKEN

Try the exciting Wack
Greenwich Crispy Fried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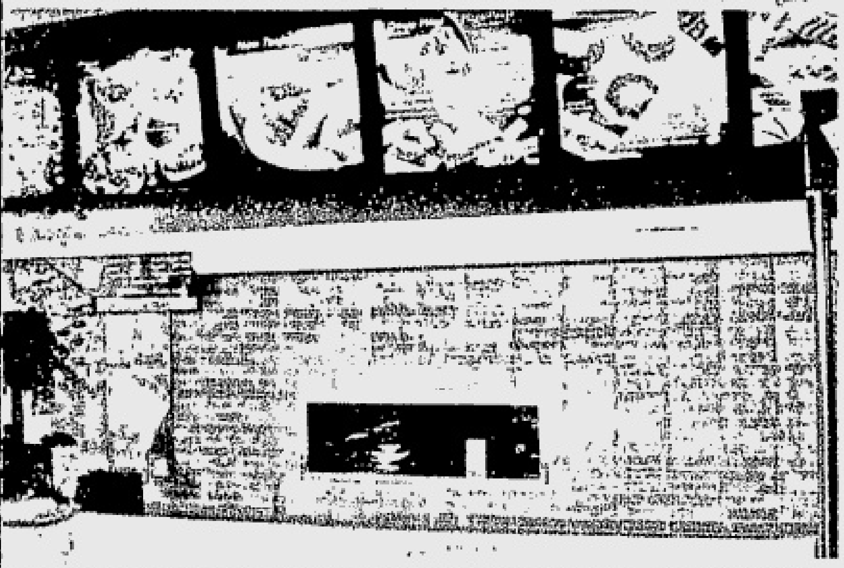
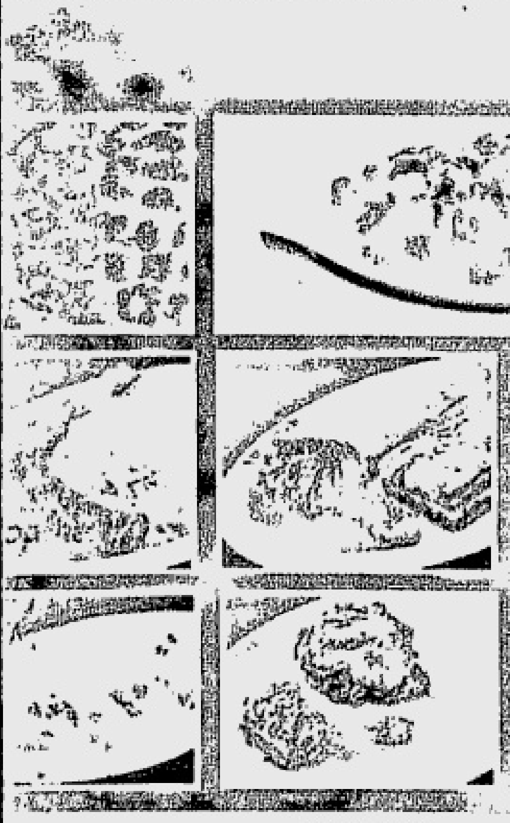
vors were truly "mas pinasarap, mas
o in 1999, new appetizing Pasta
ed: These were So Meaty Spaghetti,
Chicken Macaroni.
see big room for expansion. "Aside from the potential of opening in new markets/provinces in the country, we also see the potential of having more delivery stores and opening more mobile stores. We want Greenwich to be the most accessible pizza product. If our customers can't get to our stores, then we will go to them," says Navarrete.

Truly, Greenwich has gone a long way from its first over-the-counter Greenhills store. It has won the Filipino taste and heart with its fun, down-to-earth image and its superior-tasting products we Pinoys love.

Sa totoo lang, number one na!





From mouth-watering pizza to pasta to rice meals and side dishes, Greenwich has a smorgasbord of superior-tasting products which Filipinos love:

so sumptuous spaghetti in beefy
and sausage. Lasagna Supreme
sauce as well as special herbs and
rs of mouth-watering creamy
enhanced with rich tomato and
nd delicious chunks of chicken
Creamy Carbonara, in heavenly
h bacon bits. All are served with
h Garlic Stix, a delicious bread-
nd garlic bits.

Wings! Spicy hot! Or the classic
hicken, deep-fried, crunchy and perfect-tasting!

BAKED RICE MEALS

Yummy toppings on steaming rice, with melted mozzarella! Savor it in Chili Con Carne, Chicken a la King or Sesame Pork.

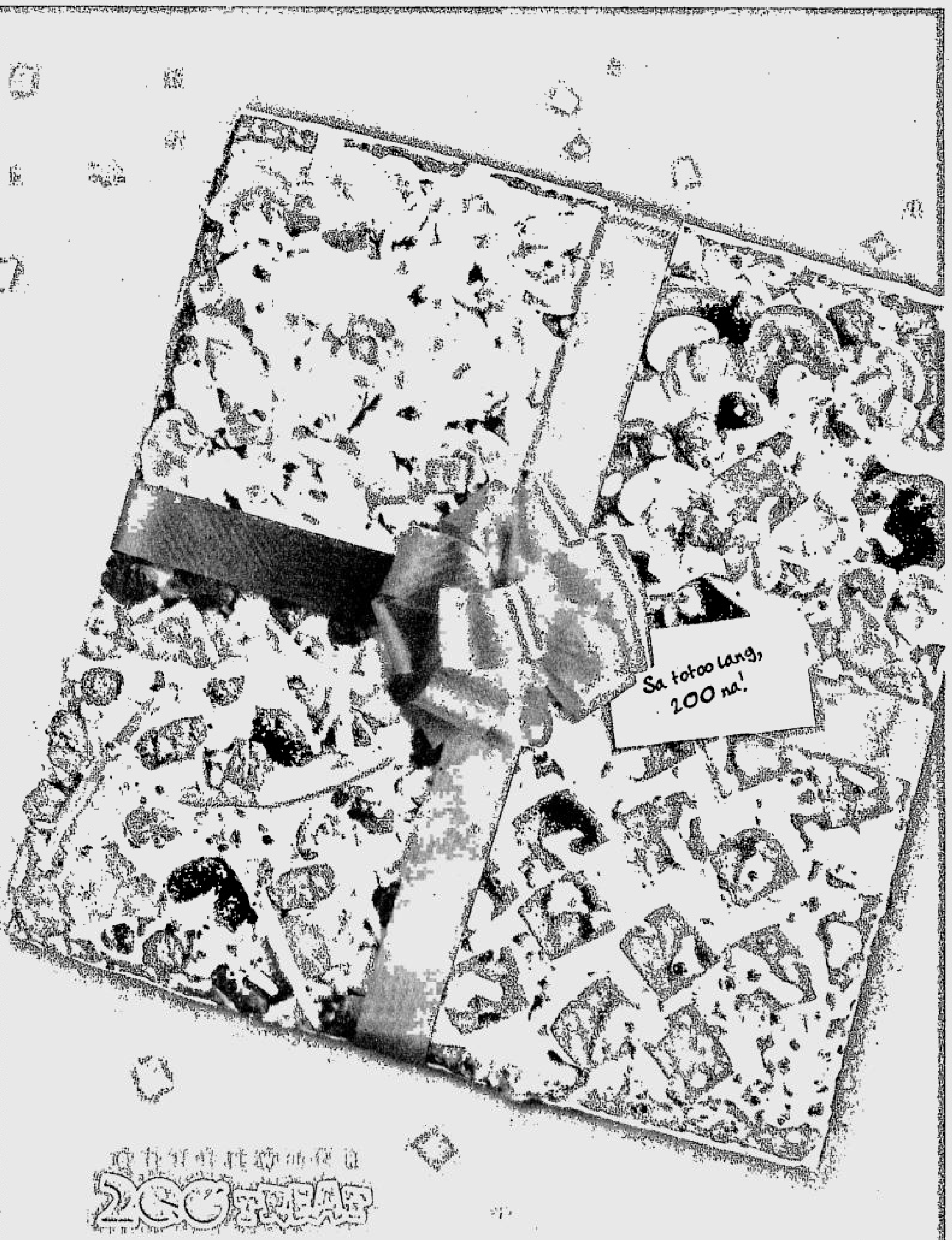
SIDE DISHES

For something to nibble on the side, try crunchy Nachoritos; the soft, delicious Pizzadilla, and the Baked PotatoStiks and the Garlic Stix!

REFRESHMENT

Pearl Coolers is also a favorite refreshment from Greenwich. Available in several delicious and distinctly Filipino flavors such as Buko Pandan, Melon and Taro.

Sa totoo lang, masarap!



2OO YEAR

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P200
lang

greenwich
200

MTV VJ for a night

By Shahani Gania
2bU! Correspondent

Being one for 15 minutes was a tough job, but it was a fun and learning experience as well

SURREAL is the word that would best describe what I felt when I was invited to be a guest VJ in last week's MTV Pilipinas 2003 awards.

Normally, I would have chosen the word ecstatic, but ever since I found out weeks earlier that my friends from UP Samaskom were cast for the show, dreams of presenting an award and even receiving one haunted me for days!

Well, in a way, dreams really do come true, and I was lucky enough to have a fairy godmother named RS Francisco who referred me to the producers of MTV.

Problems

The first problem I had to tackle was wardrobe, since my co-VJs would be the eccentric Tessa Prieto-Valdes and stylish stylist Rosario Herrera—a highly fashionable tandem.

So I did what every *fashionista* on a tight budget (or no budget at all) would do—make my own clothes. I took an old black sweater, tore it up, sewed it back together and added some gaudy beadwork.

For accessories, I chose my mom's gold belt from the '80s and a hip magazine bag from the '60s, which I stole from her when I was 8.

Adding a pair of dirty jeans and one furry hat later, I looked every inch a VJ. Well, a fashion victim, yes, but still a VJ.

My next problem, and definitely the biggest, was battling stage fright.

I've impersonated Boy Abunda on stage several times, but being on camera interviewing celebs on the orange carpet would be a totally different ball game.

I was advised to just be funny and be myself. But, hell, being myself was the worst thing that could happen. I tend to talk too fast, which makes me eat my words.

I tried channeling the spirit of some of the most confident talk show hosts, but Tito Boy kept pushing through. Finally, the entertaining Lauren Ezersky of "Behind The Velvet Ropes" took reign, and the word fabulous became a fixture in my vocabulary.

Giddy yet excited

Come showtime, I was still giddy but nevertheless excited. This is fun, I told myself, as I pointed my microphone at every celebrity I saw.

The best interviews I had were with R&B princess Nina (the nicest!), Greyhoundz's front man Reg Rubio (the coolest!) and video director (who also happens to be my high school batchmate—I'm so proud of this guy!) Avid Liongoren.

I would've been really thrilled if I got to talk to Cherie Gil (my fave! She could slap me anytime and I'd be the happiest person alive), but Rosario beat me to it.

Of course, things didn't go as flawlessly as I had hoped. I had my share of boo-boos, like not knowing who Elvie Pineda was ("And we have here... a diva!"), or suddenly forgetting the name of the person I was talking to ("We have here stylist, uhm... "/"Hi, I'm Angelo Villanueva!").

I just pray those boo-boos were edited out before the show airs tonight on MTV Fashionista.

Perhaps the best thing about being a VJ was getting to meet a person you idolized and realizing that he or she was as down-to-earth as anyone could get.

When I went backstage to meet Rosario, singer Radha gleefully pointed at me and said, "Hey, you're the MTV guy," referring to some commercials I did for the channel.

DONITA, is that you?

We delightfully spoke in gay lingo, and she even took my picture and said "*and ganda mo*," which made me blush to the bones!

By midnight, I decided to call it a night. I changed into my regular jeans and T-shirt, and my horse-drawn carriage turned into pumpkin and mice.

Being a VJ was the best experience yet—with all the glitz, glamour and walking around in high heels. It was almost hard to believe that it's a real job. But my 15 minutes of fame was up, the show was coming to an end and I was all set to enjoy the rest of it.

I went to join my friends in the mosh pit, and I was back to who I was before the magic wand was waved and my dream came true—a fan who talks too fast and gets starstruck every time.

MTV Pilipinas 2003 Orange Carpet Special on MTV Fashionista airs tonight at 8.

NINA wins Favorite New Artist. She later belted out fellow nominee Imago's "Idlip" in a skit.

WE wonder what hair products host Ogie Alcasid uses...

SONGBIRD Regine Velasquez

MTV does Pinoy pop culture

From page D1

free and True Faith were on. As the bands played, some basketball players started playing basketball, while some girls in short shorts flirted with the players—in front of the bands, who were situated under what seemed to be a makeshift garage.

"It took us around three hours *bago kami makasampa* [during rehearsals], but it was worth it, because True Faith was also there," Jal Taguibao later said.

"We had to make a few adjustments for 'Numb,' though. We wanted it to sound like Sugarfree but [at the same time] give respect to Slapshock."

The winners of the next few awards were no-brainers: Favorite Male was host Ogie Alcasid and Favorite Female was Regine Velasquez.

"It's almost embarrassing," Ogie later said. "I didn't expect to win." Dude, your face is on the press kits and artist passes.

I asked him who he predicted would win. "Well I thought Nina deserved an award, and Rivermaya, as well as True Faith."

Kuya Germs was also present to do a spoof of his many entertainment shows. An "Amateur Singing Contest," which consisted of some of today's young singers belting out the nominees' pieces, was staged.

"It's beautiful, I love it!" Barbie Almabis of Barbie's Cradle exclaimed as Carol Banawa belted out "All I Need." "I love everything about the awards. I love Coach Dagol! He's really nice," she added.

Another celebrity who enjoyed the show was host Rufa Mae Quinto, who, in between spiels, would watch the monitors intently. "It's all about fun, fashion... and everything," she joked, as publicist Jet Valle mimicked her. "It's on an international level. And the best thing I like about this show are my many outfits!"

PRETTY Barbie Almalbis

DIRECTOR Avid Liongoren in a pacific mood

OH, don't tell us you don't remember him.

RUFA Mae Quinto in her fave outfit for the night

True enough, Rufa pulled off a Cher and sported three different outfits that night. Will we ever see Rufa Mae grace our TV screens with even more of her videos?

"*'Di naman ako pinapansin eh*," she pouted, before starting to emote. "*Para saan ba ang lahat, at 'di ako nino*-nominate?!"

Unnecessary awards

The show continued to drag on. There was so much dead air that the mosh pit got thinner and thinner after every segment.

There were also too many skits and unnecessary awards, such as the "Highest Jump" and "Best Moment" awards (one or two is fine, but when you shell out five, your entertainment well is dry).

The bands on the bleachers started getting antsy, and Parokya ni Edgar's Chito Miranda even went onstage and stole a bag of Chippy from the makeshift *sari-sari* store.

Kamikazee and Parokya ni Edgar's performance, the highlight most of the musicians were probably looking forward to, turned out to be a dud. Vocalist Jay's microphone was turned off. You'd think the MTV techs would have fixed it beforehand.

Chito still managed to summon some humor on the slip-up. "Sabi daw ng MTV *ang panget panget ng boses ni* Jay, *kaya in-off yung* mic!" he quipped. "*Kawawa naman, minsan na nga lang tumugtog ang* Kamikazee *sa* MTV, *wala pang* sound."

And the Best Video is...

Everyone knows the Best Video winners get to compete against those in Asia to nab a spot at the MTV Video Music Awards. As much as it's the one award that everyone came to see, it also seemed that everyone just wanted to get it over with.

Jay's microphone jinx paid off in the end: Kamikazee won Best Video with their cover of Britney Spears' "Lucky."

Director Avid Liongoren, who earlier on was so sure he wasn't going to bring home an award, was only one of the very many people who ran up to the stage to accept the award (the boys of Rivermaya and Parokya ni Edgar joined the winners onstage).

People started to leave for the after-party at Industry as some other musicians took stage to yet again belt out the songs of the nominees. The rock bands, however, headed to their own party, to congratulate the first win of new rock band Kamikazee.

As Avid later said, "*Mabuhay ang mga jowlogs!*" (which is what he calls his production team).

Hopefully next year, Mitch Singson will be the one walking the red carpet gauntlet.

The MTV Pilipinas 2003 will premiere on Aug. 17, 7 p.m. with replays on Aug. 21, 6 p.m.; Aug. 26, 8 p.m . Sept. 6, 4 p.m.; and Sept. 14, 1 p.m. on MTV Philippines.

THE WINNERS

FAVORITE NEW ARTIST: Nina, for "Jealous"
FAVORITE GROUP: Rivermaya, for "'Wag na Init Ulo, Baby"
FAVORITE MALE: Ogie Alcasid, for "Sana"
FAVORITE FEMALE: Regine Velasquez, for "Sa Aking Pag-iisa"
FAVORITE SONG: Regine Velasquez, for "Sa Aking Pag-iisa"
BEST DIRECTOR: Team Manila, for Slapshock's "Numb"
BEST VIDEO: Kamikazee, for "Lucky"
Other Awards:
BEST DANCE SEQUENCE: 3Yo for the video "Iingatan Ka"
CLOSE CALL AWARD (*MUNTIK NANG 'DI IPALABAS*): *Patricia Javier for the video "Siya Ba Ang Dahilan?"*
HIGHEST JUMP AWARD: Flora Gasser in the video "'Wag Na Init Ulo" by Rivermaya
BEST MOMENT: Jet Panggan for "Paano Naman Kami" (The Dawn)
BEST CAMEO: Rico J. Puno in the video "The Way We Were" (Tribe of Levi)
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: True Faith

ME: How's the rock star life? YOHAN: What rockstar life?!

WHAT'S a MYX VJ doing here?! Ala Paredes and boyfriend Nino Avenido of Greyhoundz

BLEACHER bums: Sugarfree's Jal Taguibao, Ebe Dancel and Mitch "Hi! Hi!" Singson

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Public Relations Society of the Philippines

Expect a wild season of all-girl bonding and adventure in ABC-5's reality show, 'Single'

FIDES

The single girls are in the house!

By Margot Aissa C. Tan

RACHEL

SIX girls, two bedrooms, a swimming pool, all in one apartment unit. It's a fight to the finish... unless you get voted out!

Expect to witness a radical new twist in the upcoming season of ABC 5's reality TV show, "Single."

This time around, fans and viewers get a chance to a play a crucial part in the show. You can vote to kick out the girl you dislike the most either through text messages or through the show's website. The outcome, then, is all in your hands.

There are no scripts to follow in this show, just wild dares such as picking up a guy in a humdrum bookstore and trying to get him to ask for your number.

Viewers will get to see firsthand, on television, how creative (and how desperate) Filipino women can get in the midst of prevailing double standards and stereotypes in society, plus many viewers' relatively conservative views about love, sex and morality.

To make things more interesting, the six girls will be held "hostage" and put in certain situations designed to create conflict among themselves.

So watch out for catfights galore, perhaps a few tears running down these babes' cheeks, or better yet, the beginning of friendships that are made to last.

If you want to get to know the girls a little bit more and see how different they are from one another, check out the interview sheet on the next page and be the judge of who you think should be allowed to stay.

E-mail the author at magsygirl@hotmail.com

THE SINGLE/ E2

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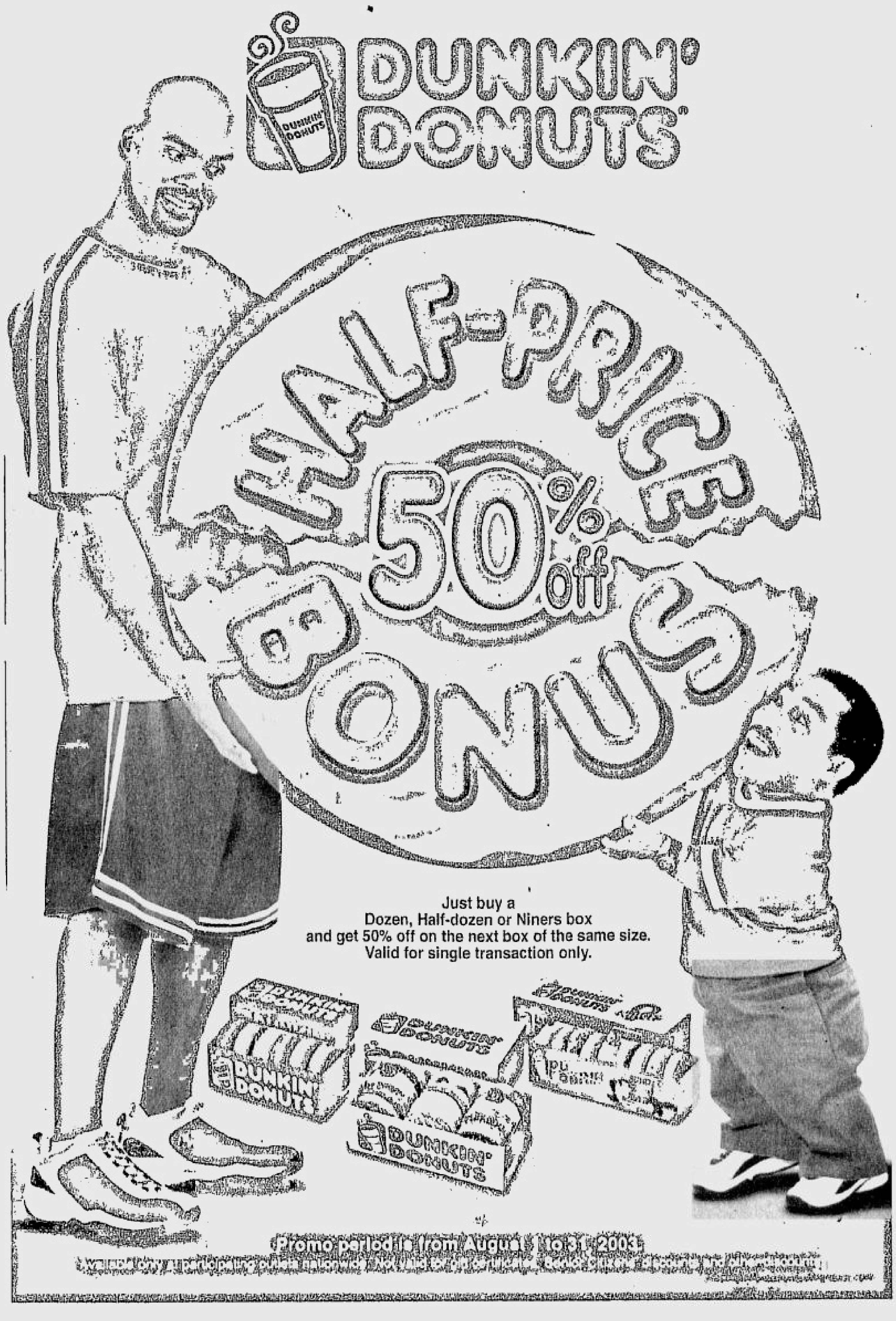

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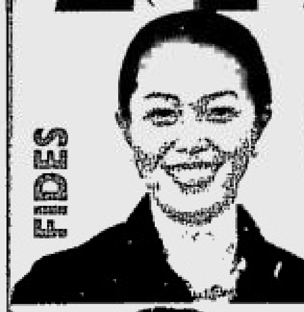
The single girls are in the house!

From page E1

What do you think about…	…the no smoking bill in Makati?	…making out on cam?	…the coup, and is Captain Trillanes hot or not?	Panties or thongs?	…premarital sex?
RINA	Great. It benefits people who don't smoke and makes the city's air cleaner.	I don't agree with that. It's a private thing.	I don't see any reason why there should be a coup. We should all work together as one country. He's not.	Depends on what you wear. I'd say thongs for daring clothes.	Haven't experienced it yet. I don't know which side I'm on.
FIDES 	It's a bit unfair and it's harshly implemented. It should have been done gradually.	I think I could possibly do it, but there will certainly be limitations - no tongue!	Alejano is hotter! Trillanes seems to be very intelligent, sexy in his own way. I believe in their ideals and what they are fighting for, but the waythey addressed it was too much.	Panties.	Fine with me. It's just that kids should be more careful and should think hard before they even try it.
RACHEL	I'm asthmatic so I'm not really for smoking. I agree with it.	It should be done in private.	Trillanes is cuuuuute! I understand what he did, but there could have been other ways.	Panties, definitely.	It's ok as long as you're responsible.
ANGEL	It f--king sucks! I'm sorry, it just really sucks. I hate it.	Great, yeah… if that's your thing.	Man… me and politics, I got my own stuff. I got enough to worry about myself. The whole world's going to f--k anyway.	Panties, because the last time I wore a thong, someone gave me a wedgie.	You live only once. Go for it!
JAYMEE	It sucks coz I smoke, and they should respect everyone's rights. We know our part - when and where we should smoke.	It shouldn't be a big deal because that's what happens, so you might as well depict what reality is on cam.	Who? Sorry. I hate hearing bad news, I don't make intriga about the war and all that stuff. I don't care.	Thongs definitely. It's sexy.	Yeah, why not. It's an expression of love. If you love someone you show it. It's the one best way to prove your love.
MARGAUXH	I don't smoke so I don't really care.	I don't have anything against people who do it. If it feels right, I won't mind.	I'm really supportive of the soldiers. I wanted to go to Oakwood and tell them not to give up. Not hot.	Thongs.	Like what I said earlier, I wouldn't mind if a person agrees to it. For me, I don't know.

Be your own makeup artist

Find your key looks and splurge a little on one or two versatile products

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

FOR most girls, even the most *kikay* of the lot (myself included!), makeup means powder, a hint of blush, and a touch of lip balm or gloss. Call it the makeup booboo-phobia, the fear of attempting to wield an unfamiliar tool turn into a streaky, smudgy, ugly nightmare!

Sure, most of us will never have the expertise of Kevyn Aucoin, or the most high-tech, exorbitantly priced tools and products of makeup experts. What I believe all of us possess, however, is unlimited creativity and an eye for what's beautiful.

With this basic "skill," you can play around with makeup and transform yourself with a mere stroke of a brush. Find ways to change your look with different shades, textures and color combinations.

I turned three faces, each with a unique kind of beauty, into canvases that displayed looks from extreme ends of a spectrum. See how a change in eye, lip, or cheek color can project an entirely different mood on the same face, with results equally stunning nonetheless. If you can look amazing on opposite ends of the beauty spectrum, imagine the endless possibilities in between! Find your key looks, splurge a little on one or two versatile products, and you're on your way to becoming your own makeup artist.

From beach babe to ice queen

Get a baked-in-the-Bahamas glow with warm, neutral tones like bronze, gold and brown. Mimic a sun-kissed look with a bronze luminizer on the apples of your cheeks, forehead, nose, and chin—areas where the sun usually hits. Voila! An instant tan and a fun, game-for-anything vibe! Finish off with shimmery, golden eyes and nude lips.

For an unexpected turnaround, play up Snow White skin with deep plum tones, icy shimmer and dramatic lined eyes. Cool colors from tranquil, snowflake-filled nights will project a vampy, sophisticated aura—perfect for festive nights out when you want an air of mystery setting you apart from the rest of the crowd.

ICE queen. On cheeks: Shu Uemura Loose Powder in Pearl; On lips: Rouge 4 279 from the Crystaux Collection; On eyes: Presses Eye Shadow in M Purple 710 and Eye Shimmer in Misty Veil from the Crystaux Collection

BEACH babe. On cheeks: Shu Uemura Luminizer in Bronze; On lips: Aura Nude Liquid Lip Rouge; On eyes: Eye Shimmer in Frosted Dew from the Crystaux Collection

From pompom princess to glam goddess

Bring out the perky cheerleader in you with bubble-gum pinks and fuchsias. Cotton candy shades flatter any skin tone and will work for any age (as long as you pick the right shade). Ultra-feminine pink hues brighten a face and lend young, girlish charm. Use light baby pink for eyes and bright gloss for a flirty pucker. In order not to overdo the pink look, blend some bronzing powder with your blush to tone it down.

Nothing spells w-o-m-a-n more than scarlet lips. A strong lip color shows confidence and brings an opulent quality to any face. Deep red lips are best worn with very light, clean makeup on eyes and cheeks. A light blush, neutral shadow and few coats of mascara are all you need.

From celestial cherub to dark angel

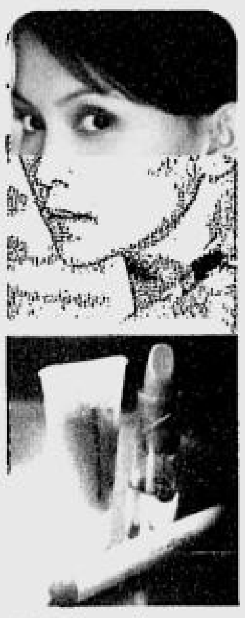
Look heavenly with a natural, no-makeup look using light, pastel colors. Barely-there hues always make you look fresh and carefree. Start off with an eye shadow with subtle silver flecks to open up eyes. Also, never be afraid to use a purple-toned blush—this shade will surprise you with a healthy glow! A brownish-pink lippie completes your angelic transformation.

Even big bike-riding, leather-jacket donning angels (think Jessica Alba and the Lucy-Cameron-Drew trio) have their appeal. For that wicked allure, try smoky eyes and nude, pale lips. The key to dark eyes is the contrast between black and white. Start off with a white base on the entire lid before working with grays and blacks. Use a highlighting pencil on the inner corners of the eyes. Keep focus on your peepers with a neutral blush and pale lips.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

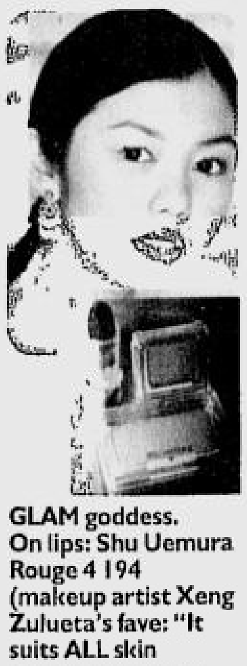
PHOTOS BY PAT MATEO
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA AND CINDY PINEDA FOR SHU UEMURA
MODELS ALESSANDRA TINIO, KAREN AGUSTIN AND MAGIC GABUYA
SPECIAL THANKS TO TINA TINIO OF SHU UEMURA

CELESTIAL cherub. On eyes: Pressed Eye Shadow in P White 912 from the Crystaux Collection; On lips: Rouge 4 258; On cheeks: Glow On in P Pink 36D



DARK angel. On eyes: Fog Grain Eye Shimmer from the Crystaux Collection; On lips: Rouge 4 947 from Crystaux and White Eye-Light Pencil

POMPOM princess. On lips: Shu Uemura Lip Gloss in Rose; On Eyes: Pressed Eye Shadow in M Rose 140; On cheeks: Glow On in P Brown 76 B from the Crystaux Collection



GLAM goddess. On lips: Shu Uemura Rouge 4 194 (makeup artist Xeng Zulueta's fave: "It suits ALL skin tones."); On eyes: Pressed Eye Shadow in IR Gray 942 from the Crystaux Collection; On cheeks: Glow on in M Pink 31

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

Failed relationship hinders her from pursuing potential BF

DEAR Mark and September,

I had a foreign boyfriend who I loved so much. I thought that he's going to be the man of my dreams, but I learned from a friend that he was seeing other women while we're still together. I was deeply hurt so I had no choice but to end our relationship after confronting him.

I started to live a life without him and began seeing other guys. One day, I happened to go online and met someone who lives in the United States. We started chatting since that day and up to this time. He says that he loves me and I admit that I'm falling for him, too. We have this cyber-love relationship for almost six months now. I just don't know if it's really possible that two people can really fall in love only through chatting. He said he will come to see me but I'm afraid that we might lose interest in one another after knowing each other better.

I am sure that I love him but I'm just afraid to give my heart again, knowing that I might get hurt soon. I want to rely on him but he himself is unsure of what will happen in the future. Do I need to go on with this or just forget him?

MS. STARGAZE

Everything is possible, blah blah blah, but your hesitation will surely do you no good. Don't postpone confrontation. The sooner, the clearer. Don't be afraid of the possible ugly outcomes. By being too scared and avoiding them, you rob yourself of the chance to receive better things in life. If you don't let him come over, how can you fall madly in love, have passionate sex, have kids and live happily ever after? If you don't try to get to know each other better, how can you discover each other's amazingly irresistible traits that will make you want to rush to the nearest *munisipyo*? Or Vinta Lodge?

I don't personally know who said it, but as he said, "no guts, no glory." You have got to learn how to give yourself another chance at love by being open to possible relationships after a failed one. Do you want to spend the rest of your very short life playing solitaire on your computer? Pursue your own happiness. Actualize. If you don't, then you will not be happy.

MARK

It has always been my belief that people who ask for advice actually know what they're going to do; they just ask around to get the extra nudge that they like to hear. Ms. Stargaze, I know that you know what you want and what to do in order to get it. You want to pursue this relationship, don't you? And, having learned from past mistakes, you already have ideas on what makes a relationship work, right? I am more than nudging you here—I'm pushing you to go ahead and trust yourself. See if you can make it work with the cyber dude. Every relationship is a form of trial-and-error, anyway, and if this thing works out, then well and good. If not, *c'est la vie*. At least you will know the real score, instead of just sitting on your hands forever wondering and uncertain.

SEPTEMBER

In doubt? In debt? E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com

STORE OF THE WEEK

Stepping into proudly Philippine-made high fashion

Text and photos by Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

SINCE November 2001, Tyler has played the humble host to some of the most stylish and exquisite clothing and shoes for men and women one could ever find in Manila.

Today, it has three branches to cater to *fashionistas*—Glorietta, Power Plant at Rockwell Center and Rustan's at Shangri-La Plaza.

Tyler's high-quality products have proven to the world just how adroit Filipino craftsmanship can be. Although most of the fabrics and materials used for the clothes are imported, all the pieces are in fact locally-made.

Tyler shoes, however, tell a different story. All pairs are made in Spain, as the store has yet to find a local supplier which can match its international standards.

When the shop opened, its original target market was the 18-35 crowd. But people of all ages soon began taking interest in the effortlessly chic quality of Tyler clothing.

Now, the store is concentrating on collections that highlight the intricacy of design in simple but highly stylish clothes. They're elegant, but not flamboyant.

Tyler's philosophy is not about fads and trends, but bringing out the individuality of a person. It's all about bringing high fashion to the streets; the clothes and shoes are comfortable and wearable, marked with Tyler's distinctive flair and finesse.

By next year, Tyler hopes to bring its Filipino-made products into the closets of famous international personalities.

E-mail the author at magsygirl@hotmail.com

Music shaman at the Tent

2bU! grabs an exclusive tête-à-tête with the hugely popular Irish DJ Robby Nelson

Text and photo by Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

THE GODSKITCHEN Global Dance 2003 (its name was derived from a saying in the UK that people would always end up in the kitchen at parties, with God's kitchen, of course, being the best) at the NBC Tent last Saturday would certainly qualify as one of the biggest parties of the year.

Everyone left the Tent on a natural high. And who else should take credit for this but the main man behind the turntables—DJ Robby Nelson?

Nelson is the other half of Agnelli and Nelson, the act responsible for the Ibiza classic "El Niño." Though Xtravaganza (UK) has been their home record label since 1997 (also home to Chicane), the duo releases only three records under this label every year.

The pair has also signed up with Tsunami (Holland) under the name Afterburn, to produce a more instrumental type of trance music, and with ID&T (Holland) under another name, Green Atlas.

The reason for signing up with different outfits, is of course, to be able to release more records and experiment with new sounds.

Agnelli and Nelson are also the pair behind the dance remixes of U2's "Beautiful Day" and "Elevation" (under the aliases Quincy and Sonnace).

The duo was one of the pioneering acts that cut into the then exploding trance culture in 1997-1998. Unlike today's spinmeisters who opt to use computers to spin or scratch their music, Agnelli and Nelson opt for more traditional approaches in remixing their cuts.

They also thrive on heavy experimentation, working on the littlest details to come up with excellent end products that Nelson once described as "uplifting and melodic."

Though he was unable to see much of Manila—arriving only a couple of hours before the NBC Tent show, sleeping all of the next day and then rushing off to other gigs in Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Ibiza, Malaysia and Australia (whew!), all before the month ends—Nelson still found time to sit down with 2bU!

What made you decide to become a DJ?

I started DJ-ing because I was into music and I wanted to be in a band. I used to play the drums, so I tried to put a band together. But I couldn't depend on the other members, because they didn't take it as seriously as I did, so it didn't work.

And then I just became a DJ because it's just me. In 1990, I started working in a studio. Agnelli and Nelson—we started working in 1995 and we've been together since.

Can you say that being a DJ is like playing an instrument, in a way?

Yeah, but hip hop music is more like that, because everything is done so fast and you cut music in pieces and put it in, and that's the way you play—so you play it like the instrument. In local universities [in Ireland], DJ-ing is recognized as being a musician almost, which is good.

Tell us how you come up with your music.

We try and produce our music really well, and we work on the small details. We spend a lot of time getting the best end result, trying to make it stand out more. Sometimes, for one song, we spend one week trying to make it sound [exactly] the way we want it. Other times, we just go to the studio and record right away. We always want to make it perfect. There's the difference.

How long does the process take usually?

Sometimes, it takes a couple of months. We may not work on it everyday, [we may] leave it for a while then go back to it. I think [the last time] we did a remix, it took us about two weeks. It depends, if you get a really good idea, then it can happen quickly. Finishing touches can take a while—a week, a month or two months perhaps.

So what do you think of Manila?

I really love it. The people here are very friendly; everyone is always smiling all the time. Everyone is happy. The event production was great. Before I came here, everyone told me that it's a good place. I didn't know what to expect because Paul [Hugo, of Godskitchen] didn't tell me anything. I thought [the venue] was a club, but he told me it was a tent! So I asked him if it had a stage, and when I came here, I was surprised with the [whole] production, the lights. I was just able to take it all up to the next level.

The party last Saturday night is definitely one of the best things I've done for the past year. People just wanted to have a good time. I thought everyone just really wanted to party. Everyone was just fresh and up for it! [I'd] definitely [rate it] a big 10!

Thanks to Agnes Almasan of Strategic Edge.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

RESTO OF THE WEEK

Fill yourself up at Filling Station

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

WHEN one gets hunger pangs at 3 in the morning, one doesn't always have to settle for Chinese fast food, burgers or convenience store goodies.

Right smack in the center of Makati's red light district is a 24-hour diner-cum-haven for food lovers. Filling Station, a longtime 2bU! favorite, whips up delightful dishes for happy patrons any time of the day.

The menu includes a wide variety of choices—from pizza, pasta, chicken and steaks to Filipino favorites, killer appetizers, breakfast treats and heavenly desserts.

Must-orders

Different people have different Filling Station favorites. Our own list is pretty long.

Their *chicharon bulaklak* is absolutely sinful. The pesto pasta is rich and tasty. Try the thick and flavorful Jumbo Porkchop, which is served with vegetables and herbed rice.

Likewise, never leave without ordering their generous serving of milkshakes (strawberry's our pick) —they not only serve you a tall glassful, they also give you whatever's left in the blender in another glass. The iced tea smoothie, for its part, is a new twist to an old staple.

Filling Station is not only heaven for the palate, it is a feast for the eyes. The people behind Filling Station succeeded in creating an authentic '50s diner feel by lining the walls with memorabilia from that era.

Old gas tanks and huge, clunky phones provide entertainment for people waiting for their orders. Most interesting for us was the inflatable Spiderman hanging from the ceiling.

Billiards aficionados can enjoy games for P250 an hour. You can rent the private room with a pool table, television and bar for eating for only P300 an hour. Those who wish to just eat have a lot of booths to choose from.

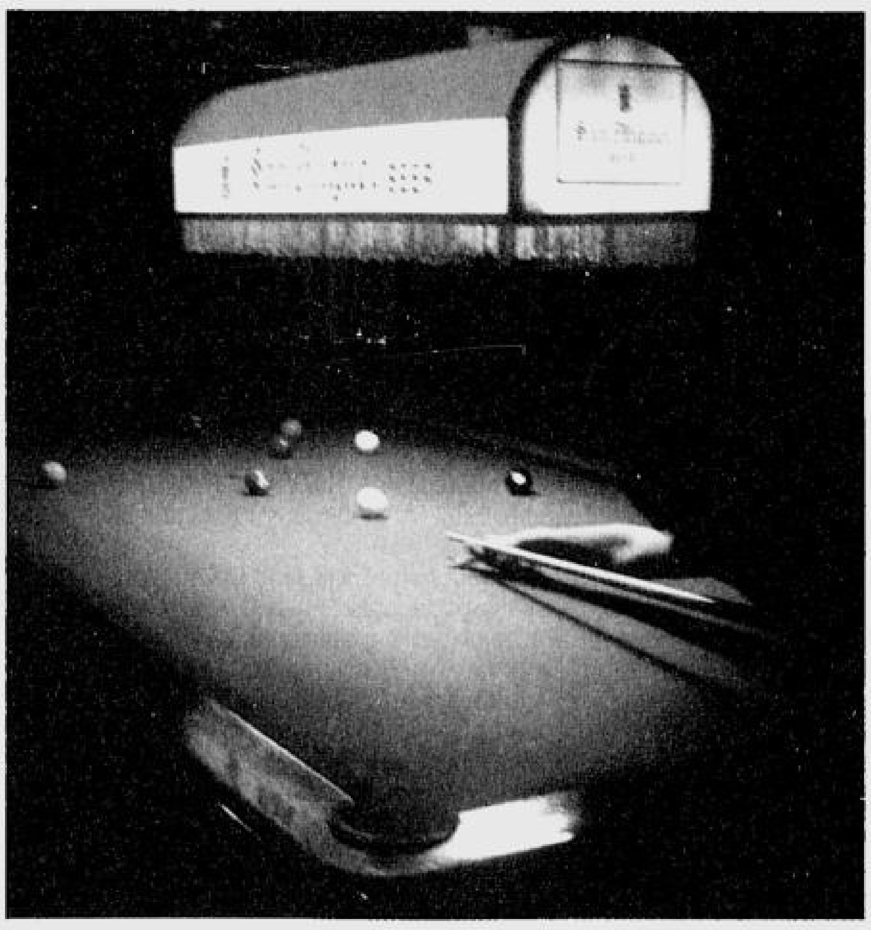
A lot of people make Filling Station their last stop before ending nights out. Others have declared it as the perfect answer to late-night hunger pangs. Some of us even go there in our pajamas!

When the munchies attack, give this place a visit. And try to beat 2bU!'s record. We once stayed there until 6:30 a.m.

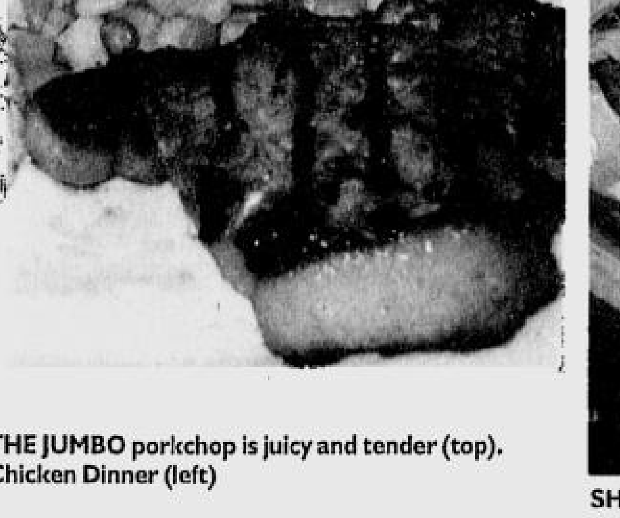
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

FILLING
24
BAR CAFE
HRS
STATION

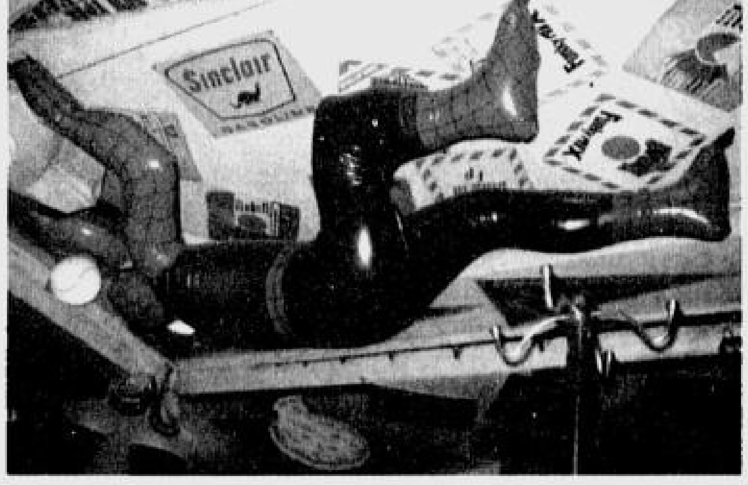
This 24-hour diner, right smack in Makati's red light district, has become a haven for food lovers



YOU don't have to be Efren to play billiards at Filling Station.



THE JUMBO porkchop is juicy and tender (top). Chicken Dinner (left)



SHARE the space with Spidey.

We've got winners!

THESE lucky people bagged the prizes from last week's issue:

Joyce Parungao will soon be stuffing her bag essentials into Mieux's Fruit Tote.

Word wizards Christopher H. Calata, Kathleen Grace Gutierrez, Angelica A. Barrenechea, Armelle Reca C. Remedio and Hiyasmin M. Nadal's haiku-writing skills have won them individual Pond's gift packs.

Here's our favorite, by Hiyasmin Nadal:

"cold foam whisked softly
bubbles alight from dead skin
your unmasked beauty!"

Sarah Mariela Panganiban, Anna Canlas and Lilian Bartolabac will be bringing home "Ataris" CDs.

Ma. Christie Calata won the charm bracelet.

"Six Feet Under" fans Richard Dizon, Christopher Calata, Kathryn Tan, Marc Garcia, Jaypee Ludovice, Leo Marc Arizala, Robert Rabago, Tanya Blay, Vicente Juvy Reburiano and Ann Moran won goodies from HBO.

Winners may claim their prizes at the PDI office, on Mondays, from 5 p.m. onwards. Please call 8978808 and look for Pam or Jason before you drop by.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
what's news
TXT game
Get the chance to win a Sony Ericsson T100 daily and other prizes worth over P1,000,000!
It's so easy to join! Just answer the daily questions about the news and features found in the Inquirer and text them to 2207 for Globe or 4627 for Smart.
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PROMO MECHANICS

- Promo is open to all Globe and Smart Subscribers.
- Promo period is from July 27 to September 24, 2003.
- TO JOIN: text PDI to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Joining the promo is free.
- TO REGISTER: text PDI REG FULL NAME/ADDRESS/BIRTHDAY (Ex. PDI REG Ed Santos/22 Lira St. BF Homes/120873) and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Registration is free.
- TO ANSWER: text PDI ANS <letters of your choice> and send to 2207 for Globe subscribers or 4627 for Smart subscribers. Ex. PDI ANS A/B/C/D
- 5 daily multiple-choice questions will be placed in a daily ad published in the Inquirer.
- Questions every Wednesday and Saturday will be taken from the *2bU* and *Saturday Special Super* sections. All other questions will be general questions about youth trivia and the Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant one raffle entry.
- Answer fifteen (15) questions correctly and receive an invite to join the INQUIRER READERS CLUB.
- Your mobile number will serve as your raffle entry.
- HOW TO ACCUMULATE RAFFLE ENTRIES:
  TRIVIA: Each correct answer gives you 1 raffle entry.
  DOWNLOAD GUYITO: Each download gives you 10 raffle entries. You can only download a maximum of 10 Guyitos during the promo period.

DAILY RAFFLE DRAW

- The prize is a SONY ERICSSON T100 MOBILE PHONE.
- There will be SIXTY (60) WINNERS for the total duration of the promo.
- Deadline of entries for the daily draw is from 12:00AM to 11:59PM.
- A DTI representative will be present for the raffle draws.
- Daily winners will be drawn EVERY SATURDAY at The Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 10:00AM from August 2 to September 27, 2003.
- A participant can only win one daily prize during the promo period.
- A daily prize winner will still be qualified for the grand draw.

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

- The prize is a TECHIE PACKAGE consisting of:
  - Fujitsu Life Book P1120
  - Palm Zire 71
  - Pioneer DVD Mini Compo EV-51
  - Sony CTV KVXA29N90
  - Sony Cybershot DSC F-77
  - Sony Ericsson T310 with CommuniCam™
- There will be only ONE (1) WINNER of the Techie package.
- There will be THIRTY-FIVE (35) CONSOLATION PRIZE WINNERS of P10,000 each.
- A participant can only win once in the grand draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
- Deadline of entries is until 11:59PM of September 24, 2003.
- Grand raffle draw will be aired on Sept. 28, 2003 between 2:30PM to 4:00PM on GMA-7.
- A DTI representative will be present for the grand raffle draw.
- A print ad with the names of all winners will come out in the *2bU* section of the Inquirer on October 1, 2003.
- All winners will be notified via telephone call as well as via registered mail. **Winners are never sent text** messages.
- All winners can claim their prizes at Philippine Daily Inquirer located at Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
- All winners must show valid identification (e.g., Drivers license, SSS, etc.) and the SIM card used to participate.
- Winners will have 60 days to claim their prizes.
- Employees of Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Communications, Inc.,Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inq7 Interactive, Inc., and Harrison Communications and its agencies, as well as relatives up to second degree the of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

Sony Ericsson

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975 Series of 2003